



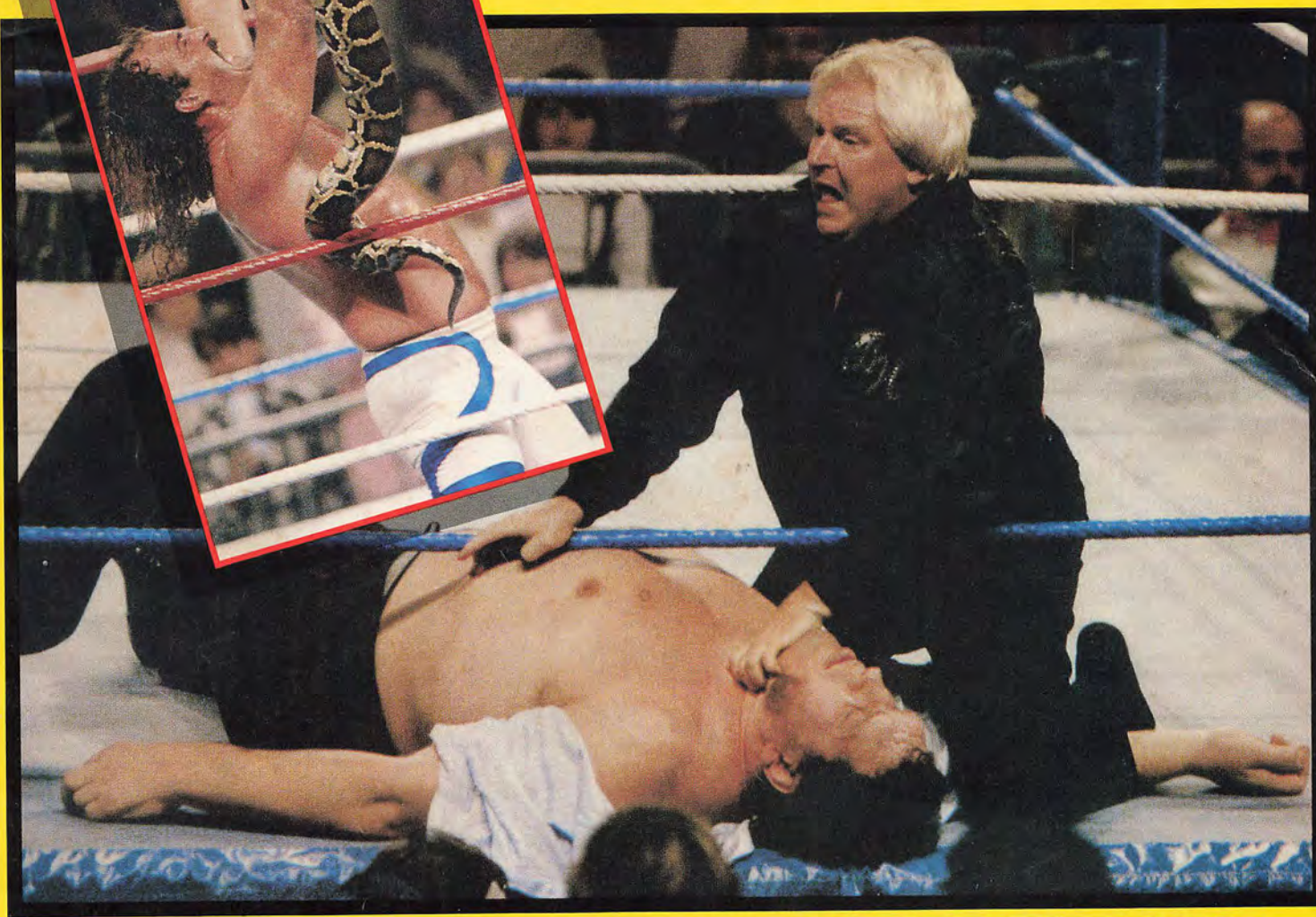
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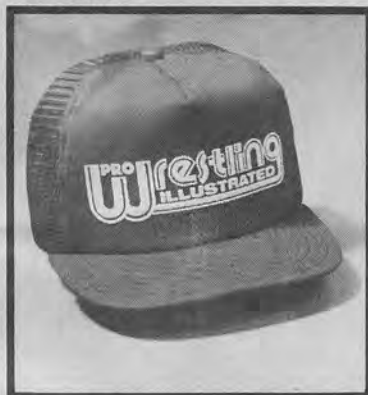
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THE Wrestler

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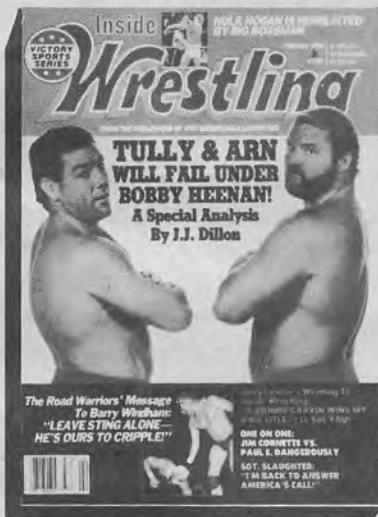
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YOUR LETTERS

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Jim Cornette has a warning for Paul E. Dangerously and anyone else who endangers his Midnight Express. Reader Renee Payne is on Cornette's side in this war.

NOTHING TO PROVE

I was outraged after reading your January 1989 cover story "The Horsemen Destroyed! The World Title Gained! But The Midnight Express *Still* Must Prove Themselves!" I can't believe that I paid to support a publication that could consider printing such an outrageous claim! The Midnight Express has *nothing* to prove!

Jim Cornette singlehandedly masterminded the demise of The Four Horsemen, and Stan Lane and Bob-

by Eaton carried out those brilliant plans. They drove Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson to seek employment in the WWF circus. They struck such fear in the heart of J.J. Dillon that he didn't even consider putting together another team to seek revenge.

Comparing Lane to Dennis Condrey is hilariously ridiculous. Lane is in a class by himself, both inside and outside the ring. With Lane as his partner, Bobby Eaton no longer has

to carry the team. Dumping Condrey and bringing in Lane was the smartest decision Mama Cornette ever made.

Admittedly, as I write this, things don't look so good for the Midnight Express. The Road Warriors scored a tainted NWA World title victory over Eaton and Lane by attacking them before the bell and double-teaming them outside the ring. Eaton was even wounded in the robbery.

By the time this gets to press, however, I'm sure the Midnight Express will be back to their old winning ways. If you want proof, just watch them destroy the "Original" Midnight Express and The Road Warriors.

RENEE PAYNE
Asheville, NC

TAYLOR-MADE CAREER

For the past year, it's been sad to see the career of Terry Taylor going the way it has. Since losing the UWF TV title at the Thanksgiving 1987 unification match against then-NWA TV champ Nikita Koloff, Taylor's career has gone nowhere.

Initially, I was inspired by the way Taylor recovered from the loss. First he traveled to the CWA and remained there for a couple of months. After that, he moved on to World



Terry Taylor can execute a leglock as well as any wrestler in the sport. Despite his technical excellence, Taylor allows Bobby Heenan to control his career and call him the "Red Rooster." Reader Rich Palladino thinks Taylor should break away from Heenan.

Class, where he quickly captured the Texas title from Matt Borne. It looked like Taylor had realized his career goals, and he successfully defended his title for four months. Then he received a fateful offer from the WWF.

To say that his career is stagnating in the WWF is a major understatement. Taylor has even lowered himself to taking on Bobby Heenan as a manager. For whatever reason, Taylor has allowed himself to be referred to as Heenan's "Little Red Rooster." Heenan publicly undermines Taylor's intelligence, physique, and wrestling ability. Taylor just takes it in stride, believing that Heenan will lead him to the WWF World title.

Come on, Terry! Wake up and be your own man, not Bobby Heenan's Little Red Rooster!

RICH PALLADINO
Reading, MA

WARRIOR REACTIONS

Just like your January 1988 cover story ("The Road Warriors Will Turn Bad In 1988") declared, The Road Warriors *have* turned bad. I really don't care if the Roadies are good or bad, but I don't think they had to turn bad in such a brutal fashion.

What they did to Sting was totally uncalled for. In a match against The Varsity Club, Sting put his scorpion leglock on Mike Rotundo, and the Roadies attacked him! I couldn't believe it!

As far as I'm concerned, however, the Warriors' reasoning is ridiculous. I think it's bull that Sting tried to take all the glory and that The Legion of Doom has been carrying Dusty Rhodes while Dusty took money from their pockets. Sting sat *out* most of that match, and Dusty has done everything he could for the Warriors, a

team I'm sure he never entirely trusted.

ANNE WINTER
Eaton, OH

This letter is being written after I learned that The Road Warriors have finally won the NWA World tag team championship. It has been far too long since The Legion of Doom has held a world title.

Who really cares if they had to turn their backs on Lex Luger, Sting, and Dusty Rhodes? If a person was a *real* fan of Hawk and Animal's, they would be happy for them and offer their congratulations. If you remember correctly, the Warriors never *asked* to be cheered, and they definitely never asked for anyone's help to fight their battles.

If you remember again, it was always, "Please, help us, Warriors. We can't handle The Four Horsemen by ourselves. Come to our rescue." Now, maybe The Legion of Doom will join with the remaining Horsemen and form a truly unbeatable unit.

MIKE MacFARLAND
Meadville, PA

A CORRECTION

First of all, I'd like to personally thank the entire staff of *The Wrestler* for the January 1989 "Introducing" feature on me. I appreciate all the great publicity.

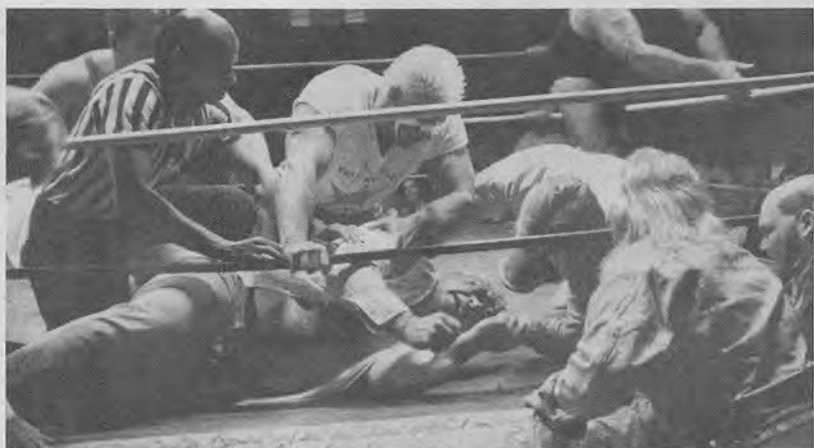
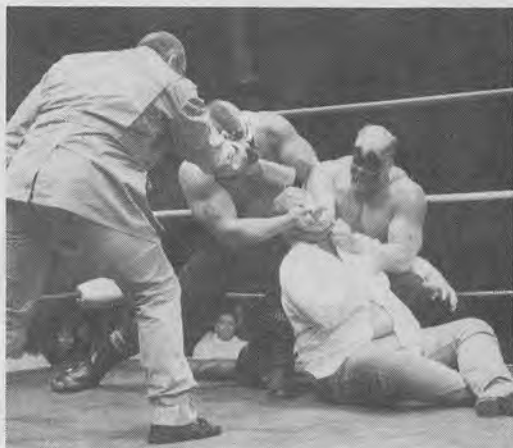
(Continued on page 44)



Dustin Rhodes has come to the NWA with Kendall Windham as his tag partner.

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

By BILL APTER



Paul Ellering taunts Dusty Rhodes while Road Warrior Hawk holds Rhodes to the mat and Road Warrior Animal plunges a steel spike into the "American Dream's" right eye (above left). After the vicious attack, Sting, Nikita Koloff, The Fantastics, Bam Bam Bigelow, and referee Teddy Long help Rhodes out of the ring and back to the dressing room (above right).

NWA WORLD TAG team champions **The Road Warriors** re-established themselves as the most hated team in wrestling when they intentionally injured the right eye of **Dusty Rhodes** during a WTBS television taping on November 26 in Atlanta. Indeed, the incident may have established them as the most despised team of modern times.

"This should teach that slob not to stick his nose in our business," yelled an ecstatic **Hawk** after the vicious two-on-one brutalization. "We may have tagged up with

him in the past, but now he's history. In fact, he'll be lucky if he ever sets foot in a ring again. This is one of the greatest moments of our careers."

Rhodes, in street clothes and being interviewed by **David Crockett**, was incensed over comments made by **Animal** and Warrior manager **Paul Ellering** during recent interviews. Working himself into a frenzy, Rhodes jumped into the ring and challenged Animal to a fight.

It turned out to be one of the worst decisions "The American

Dream" ever made. Animal ran into the ring, and Rhodes pummeled the Warrior—until Hawk ran in to join his partner. As Ellering looked on, Animal unscrewed a steel spike from his ring outfit. Animal held Rhodes down while Hawk dug the spike deep into Rhodes' forehead and right eye, opening several lacerations and causing serious damage to Rhodes' pupil and retina.

Doctors at the WTBS studios frantically tried to stop the bleeding from Rhodes' wounds before

(Continued on page 48)

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THE BEST KEEPS GETTING BETTER!

THIS IS A story about the good things wrestlers do outside the ring that we don't often hear about.

Tommy Kelleher was dying, suffering from a rare form of cancer that only five children before him had contracted. He didn't have long to live.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation, which is dedicated to giving dying children a moment of happiness, offered Tommy a trip to Disneyland or the amusement park of his choice. But Tommy didn't want to go to a park. He was a big wrestling fan. He wanted to meet Roddy Piper and AWA announcer Lee Marshall, two of his favorites.

So someone from Make-A-Wish called Gold's Gym in Venice, California, where both Piper and Marshall, who are close friends, were working out. Within minutes, they

were at the ABC Radio Network studios in Los Angeles and on the phone with Tommy, who lived in suburban Washington, D.C.

"My first reaction was to be incredibly flattered that this little boy wanted to talk with me," Marshall recalled. "Roddy felt the same

way. We didn't want to let him down."

The three talked for an hour. They swapped stories about wrestling. "Tommy knew the names of all the wrestlers," Marshall said. "Lawler, Savage, Hogan; he liked them all. He knew what was going on in every federation. He told Roddy things about his career that even Roddy had forgotten. We couldn't believe that he knew so much about the sport. It was great."

Tommy was one wrestling fan who genuinely believed in his heroes. When doctors

wanted to give him marijuana to relieve some of the pain of chemotherapy, he said no. Even in pain, he took Hulk Hogan's anti-drug message to heart. "That's how much wrestling meant to Tommy," Marshall said. "Just

(Continued on page 52)

WIN LOSE OR DRAW

BY ANDY RODRIGUEZ



AWA announcer Lee Marshall (above left) and Roddy Piper (above right) were both deeply moved by a conversation they had with Tommy Kelleher, a young boy dying of cancer.

BY BOB SMITH

LET'S GO WITH BROTHER LOVE

ONE DAY A few weeks ago, I received some news that was like a divine revelation. Well, not really, but at least I saw the light:

The fans *haaaaaaate* you, Brother Love!

Actually, I received this info purely by accident. I was helping sort out the mail, which had increased tenfold because of the balloting for the year-end Achievement '88 awards in our sister publication *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* (results printed in the current edition, March 1989). My interest was piqued, however, by a stack of letters that someone labeled "Love/Hate." This huge mound of mail consisted of complaint letters directed at the WWF's new TV interview segment host. *Hundreds* of letters.

In fact, the incredible amount of mail we've been receiving on this sour sermonizer proves that Brother Love is the most despised man in wrestling today. The egocentric interviewer has struck a raw nerve with more wrestling buffs than anyone else in recent memory. Oh, Brother!

"The only question I have for the WWF is: *Why?*" wrote Kenny Phipps of Cranston, Rhode Island. "I can understand why Roddy Piper and Jesse Ventura hosted the interviews, because those men had *some* insight, even if you didn't always agree with their opinions. But all this guy does is give that goofy grin and scream, 'I looooooove you!' He's *disgusting!*"

"I tune in to watch wrestling, not *The Old Time Gospel Hour*," complained Bob Johnstone of Boston. "Some of the biggest scandals of last year were caused by televangelists. This man is committing a sacrilege—both to wrestling *and* religion—and should be censored. All he does is flaunt his wealth, and then he ridicules Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage! How the hell did this jerk get his job?"

Indeed, the WWF hasn't said all that much about the past of Brother Love. Where *did* he come from? Is he a former religious leader? We've been told that Bobby Heenan looks to this man for "spiritual guidance" and that Ted DiBiase has contributed to his "cause," whatever that is. Just about *everything* else—including how he got involved in wrestling—is open to conjecture.

Love is also not the first to cross this bizarre line between religion and wrestling. Brother Ernest Angel, another televangelist, preceded him in the CWA early last year. But the fact that Love came second doesn't appease the fans. Even the controversial Piper, who once utilized the same air time Love now occupies, believes that the WWF has gone too far this time.

"I think a lot of people would take offense to that," Piper told me in an interview published in the December 1988 issue of *Inside Wrestling*. "A lot of kids watch those shows, and I know I wouldn't want my own kids to see that. I don't think this southern preacher stuff does our sport any good at all."

A vast multitude seems to agree with Piper. It's a good thing that non-wrestlers aren't counted in our "Most Hated" ratings; because this guy would have been ranked right at the top of the list for months. It isn't eternal damnation, but by wrestling standards it would come pretty close.

The voice of the fans, remember, seems to mean little to the WWF, so prepare for as much Love as you can stand. The fans were outraged when Jake Roberts was allowed to bring a snake to the ring a couple of years back, but he was allowed to keep doing it. The public hooted even louder when The Honky Tonk Man, one of the most pathetic creatures ever to gain main-event status, was crammed down their throats. So it's a virtual certainty that this white-suited charlatan will be around for what will seem like an eternity.

I read recently that the ratings for the WWF's TV programs were lower than they had been in several years. I wonder if Brother Love has had anything to do with that?

Say amen, Brother. □



Brother Love



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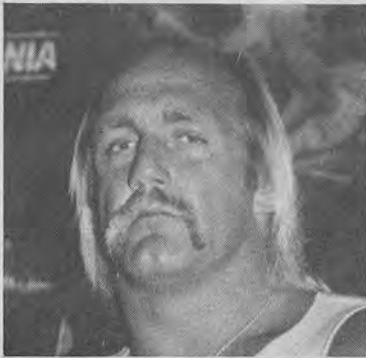
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Thumbs Up

Each issue, *The Wrestler* will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.



Thumbs Up to Hulk Hogan. And the entire WWF, in fact, from Vince McMahon on down for a most noble gesture. On December 14, Coliseum Video and the World Wrestling Federation planned to launch a series of 30-second anti-smoking spots at the beginning of each video made during the coming year. Various wrestlers will do the spots, which are part of a pledge drive with the Boys Club of America. The "Hulkster" will launch the spots, which should go a long way toward alerting children and adults to the dangers of smoking. Bravo!



Thumbs Up to Rick Steiner. We're not about to suggest that our "Thumbs Down" to Steiner last month was the impetus behind his decision to leave The Varsity Club, but it really doesn't matter. The fact is that Steiner, a talented young wrestler, finally rid himself of an organization that was hindering his development. The constant ridicule from Kevin Sullivan and Mike Rotundo he was forced to endure was embarrassing and totally unfair. Now that Steiner is on his own, look for him to seriously challenge Ric Flair for the NWA World title. He's a wrestler on the move!



Thumbs Up to Eric Embry. What an incredible—and positive—change we've seen come over the World Class light heavyweight champion! At one time, Embry was one of the most evil men in professional wrestling. But he's now using his substantial talents to wrestle on the side of good, while constantly putting on a display of superb scientific wrestling. He's also come to the aid of the Von Erich family several times, proving without a doubt that he's disavowed his past ways. Jeff Jarrett will tell you: Eric Embry has become quite a man . . . and quite a wrestler!



Thumbs Up to Dusty Rhodes. Let's face it, it wasn't a good month for the "American Dream." Rhodes suffered a serious eye injury as a result of an attack by The Road Warriors on *World Championship Wrestling*. We must, however, give Rhodes credit for standing up and fighting his own battles. It would be too easy for Rhodes to enlist several other wrestlers to help him in his cause, but Dusty claims he wants to fight this one alone. If justice prevails, the "Dream" will get revenge and the Warriors will learn that two-on-one attacks are the cowardly way, not the right way.

Thumbs Down!



Thumbs Down to Brother Love. Okay, Brother, let's see some proof. In the United States of America, a person can't make charges without backing them up. It's the law! Several times on WWF television, you've slandered Elizabeth by charging that she is doing favors for WWF President Jack Tunney. If the charges are true, we'd like to know exactly what she's doing, and why. But until you back up these scurrilous charges, the WWF should order you to stop slandering Elizabeth. We're sure there are plenty of skeletons in your closet, Brother Love!



Thumbs Down to Jim Garvin. And the winner in the Jim Garvin vs. Kevin Sullivan war is . . . Kevin Sullivan! The "Gamesmaster" may have failed in his plot to lure Precious away from Garvin, but let's look at what's happened since then. Garvin was seriously injured and, with Precious, has left the NWA. Sullivan, meanwhile, still manages TV champion Mike Rotundo and recently added Steve "Dr. Death" Williams to The Varsity Club. We're surprised—and disappointed—that Garvin didn't stay behind to fight the battle against Sullivan's crew.



Thumbs Down to Sid Vicious. The newest member of The Stud Stable was involved in the latest violent incident to involve the son of a wrestler. When Robert Fuller and Jimmy Golden attacked Bill Dundee during a TV interview, 17-year-old Jamie Dundee came to his father's aid. Vicious then ran out, locked Jamie in a Japanese cobra hold, and swung him around, breaking his neck. While we understand that wrestling is a sport involving intense physical contact, we don't understand what pushes certain evil men to such violence. Vicious is clearly a vicious man!



Thumbs Down to Mr. Fuji. The devious manager reached a new low at the Survivor Series. Not content with the abuse his team Demolition was piling on archrivals The Powers of Pain, Fuji wanted to get into the act, too. But when Smash refused to play along with his manager's tricks, Fuji got nasty. He pulled down the ring rope when Smash attempted a rebound, sending Smash falling to the mat. Then he helped The Powers of Pain score a questionable victory over The Conquistadors. That did it for Demolition and Fuji; Fuji is now managing Warlord and Barbarian, who should beware of backstabbers! □

CORRESPONDENTS

REPORTS

Toronto, Ontario (Correspondent—Henry Tyminski): Ron Bass and Brutus Beefcake began their war here by slugging each other repeatedly outside the ring. "The Barber" won the slugfest and controlled the first five minutes of the match, but Bass used his whip handle to gain an advantage.

Beefcake battled back to even up the match, but the referee was knocked out of the ring while Beefcake had Bass in a sleeper. As Beefcake was trying to revive the referee, Bass hit him and went for the pin. But Beefcake rolled Bass up in a small package and got the three-count.

Bass was so angry, he grabbed his whip and hanged Beefcake by the neck over the top rope. Fortunately, The Rockers came in and made the save.

In other bouts: Randy Savage beat Dino Bravo ... Ted DiBiase defeated Hacksaw Duggan by countout ... Big Bossman smashed Ken Patera ... The Rockers beat The Conquistadors ... Danny Davis upset Sam Houston ... Curt Hennig beat Scott Casey.

Rome, Italy (Correspondent—Roberto Pastore): After their non-title victory over the champs a day earlier in Milan, Italy, The British



The Dynamite Kid hammerlocks Demolition Ax. The British Bulldogs recently wrestled Demolition in Italy.

Bulldogs challenged Demolition for the WWF World tag team title at The Palasport.

Early in the bout, the Bulldogs controlled the action with fast tags, armbars, and wristlocks, while Demolition occasionally double-teamed their opponents. Dynamite Kid suplexed Smash and attempted to gain the pin, but Ax interrupted the count with a forearm smash to the Kid's back.

Dynamite recovered and put Smash in an abdominal stretch. As referee Tim White ordered Davey Boy not to enter the ring, Ax hit Dynamite in the back with

an axhandle off the second rope. Smash then covered Dynamite for the pin.

In other bouts: Sherri Martel pinned Rockin' Robin ... Harley Race & Akeem defeated Junkyard Dog & B. Brian Blair ... Andre the Giant pinned Tito Santana ... Greg Valentine pinned Lanny Poffo ... Don Muraco pinned Barry Horowitz.

Columbus, OH (Correspondent—Gary Graham): NWA World champion Ric Flair put his belt on the line against longtime rival Dusty Rhodes in another one of their classic matches. Rhodes took the early advantage by hitting the champion with an assortment of elbowsmashes, suplexes, and even a dropkick! But the wily champion fought back and bloodied his challenger with closed-fist punches.

After surviving Flair's figure-four leglock, Rhodes fought back and had Flair on the run—until they collided and knocked referee Tommy Young out of the ring. Rhodes had Flair pinned for a 10-count, but it didn't matter because Young was still out cold. When Rhodes went to revive Young, Flair kneed him in the back and covered him for the pin. Young made the three-count, even

(Continued on page 62)

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If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

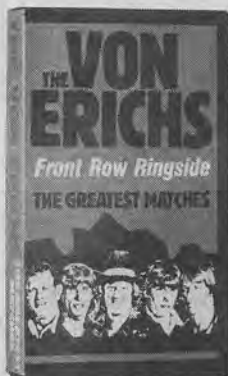
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- Highlights of Mike Von Erich's November 24, 1983, debut match against Gen. Skandor Akbar, and a battle against John Tatum.
- Rare footage of Chris Von Erich; Fritz vs. Joe Blanchard; David spanking Sunshine; six-man action featuring Mike, Lance, & Kevin, and David, Kevin, and Kerry; and Mike's hospitalization from toxic shock syndrome.

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Q: "I'd like to ask Ric Flair this question: Ric, are you bothered that Jerry Lawler insults you and says that you're afraid to leave your federation? Does it bother you that Lawler forgets you've been World champion five times since 1981?"—Daniel McCalla, Brooklyn, NY

A: "To be the man you've got to beat the man, and *everybody* is after the man, and that man is yours truly," Flair replied. "First let me explain that Jerry Lawler never pinned me. We wrestled in October of 1985 during my third NWA World title reign, and he couldn't put me down; he couldn't even come close, and that's a fact! Second of all, I bust my butt day in and day out. If Lawler has so little competition in the AWA that he has to travel to Texas and other areas, that's his problem. The NWA has quite enough competition to keep me busy. Between Sting and Lex

YOU ASKED US

This is the monthly feature that answers **ALL** your most important questions about the mat sport, the stars, and the feuds. Send us your most perplexing queries and we'll have them answered for you by the world's finest grapplers and most insightful mat reporters. Address your questions to: **YOU ASKED US**, c/o **THE WRESTLER**, P.O. Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571.

Luger, I have *two* number-one challengers. There is no question in my mind—and this is based on my title longevity, physical stamina, number of title defenses, and quality of opposition—that I am *the* greatest champion in the history of wrestling! Lawler has never been anything but a second-rate titlist, and his AWA reign is no exception. *Woooooo!*"

Q: "I'd like to know Editor-in-Chief Stu Saks' opinion of The Megapowers."—Meng Phong, Baltimore

A: "A Randy Savage-Hulk Hogan team will always be big news, I'll tell you that much!" Saks replied. "But by the time this issue comes out, The Megapowers might not even exist anymore. There's too much jealousy between Savage and Hogan now. No matter what he says, Hogan will always feel deep down that Savage is borrowing *his* World title. Similarly, as Hogan's advances toward Elizabeth increase, Savage will begin to feel that Hogan is borrowing *his* manager. The possessive side of human nature is usually the main reason relationships end. I'm sure a Hogan-Savage feud is in the offing. In the ensuing 'divorce,' Savage might end up with custody of Elizabeth, but I think Hogan will get the belt. It's a shame, too, because The Megapowers could be *the* dominant team in the sport."

Q: "I have to ask Col. DeBeers: Can you beat Sgt. Slaughter? And if you can, why?"—Ricky Thomas, Cincinnati

A: "What kind of question is this?" DeBeers asked. "Of *course* I can beat such a pathetic member of the American military-industrial complex. Your armed forces are the weakest in the entire western world. And in this pathetic army, Slaughter could only rise as far as sergeant. As a South African officer, I received the finest training.

(Continued on page 63)



Ric Flair catches Jerry Lawler in an abdominal stretch. NWA champion Flair calls Lawler a second-rate titleholder who couldn't come close to beating him.



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INTRODUCING

CACTUS JACK

After only a few weeks in Memphis, Cactus Jack captured the CWA tag team title with partner Gary Young. But now Jack has split from Robert Fuller's Stud Stable—and has developed World Class ambitions

IT'S A RARITY when our "Introducing" feature focuses on a five-year veteran. But Cactus Jack, a vicious grappler who has decided to give up rulebreaking and battle the men the fans despise, is not your typical mat star.

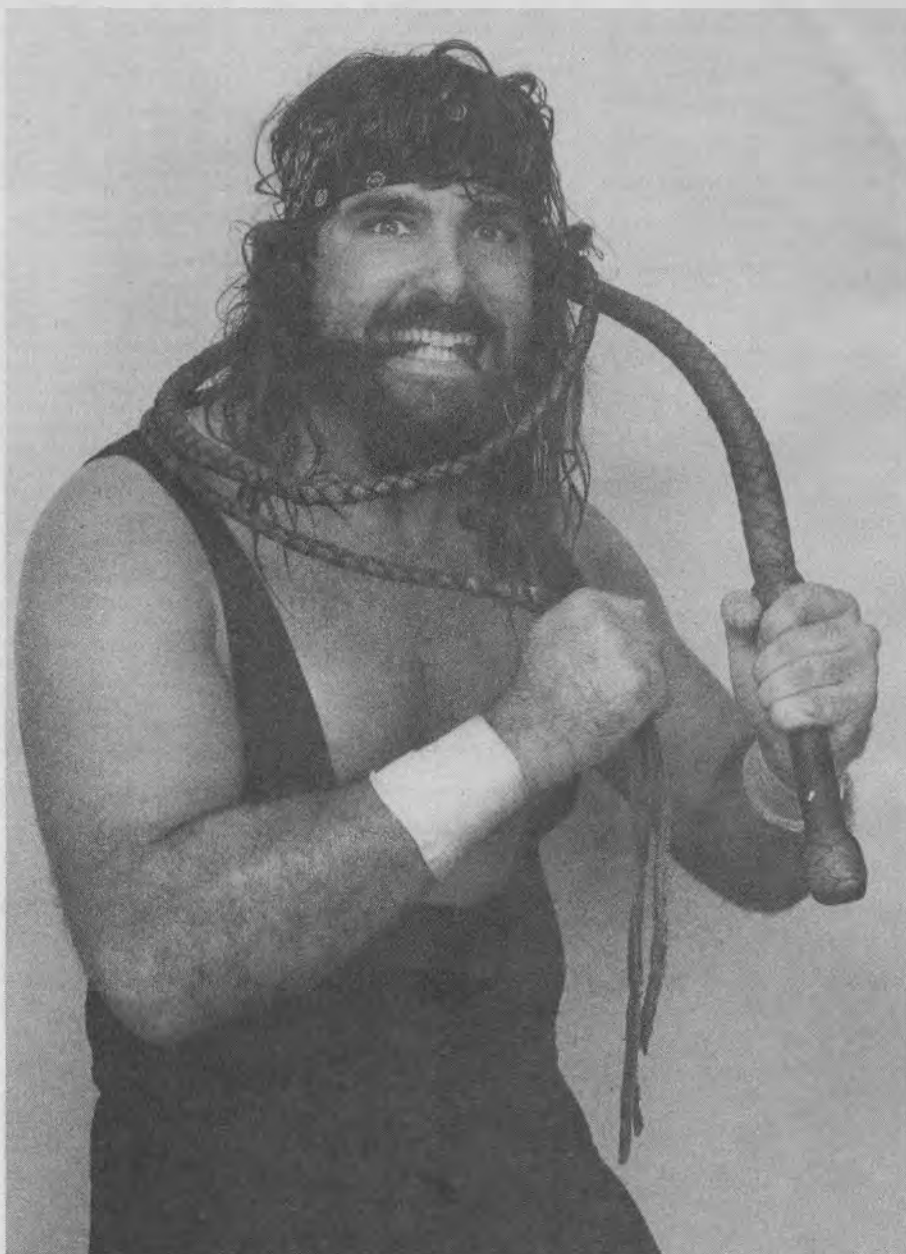
"I guess you could call me a late bloomer," laughed Jack, known for the past several years as a rugged independent star. "Hey, so much has happened to me in the past few months, I'm having a hard time keeping up with it all."

The man who has given Jack the hardest time is Robert Fuller, the leader of The Stud Stable. Jack thought that when he and Gary Young won the CWA tag team title it would please Fuller, the man who recruited him for his organization. Instead, it started a war!

"Nobody's more shocked than me over what happened," said Jack, a 6'4", 247-pound brawler. "But you gotta expect the unexpected here in Memphis. My whole life has been a series of strange developments, I guess."

Cactus Jack, born Jack Foley in Truth Or Consequences, New Mexico, on June 7, 1965, moved to New York during his tumultuous teen years. He was usually in and out of trouble, and was known for getting into minor

(Continued on page 58)



After wrestling on the independent circuit for five years, Cactus Jack has broken into the big time. He was in Memphis before he and Gary Young lost a loser-leave-town match to Robert Fuller and Jimmy Golden. Now they're in World Class.

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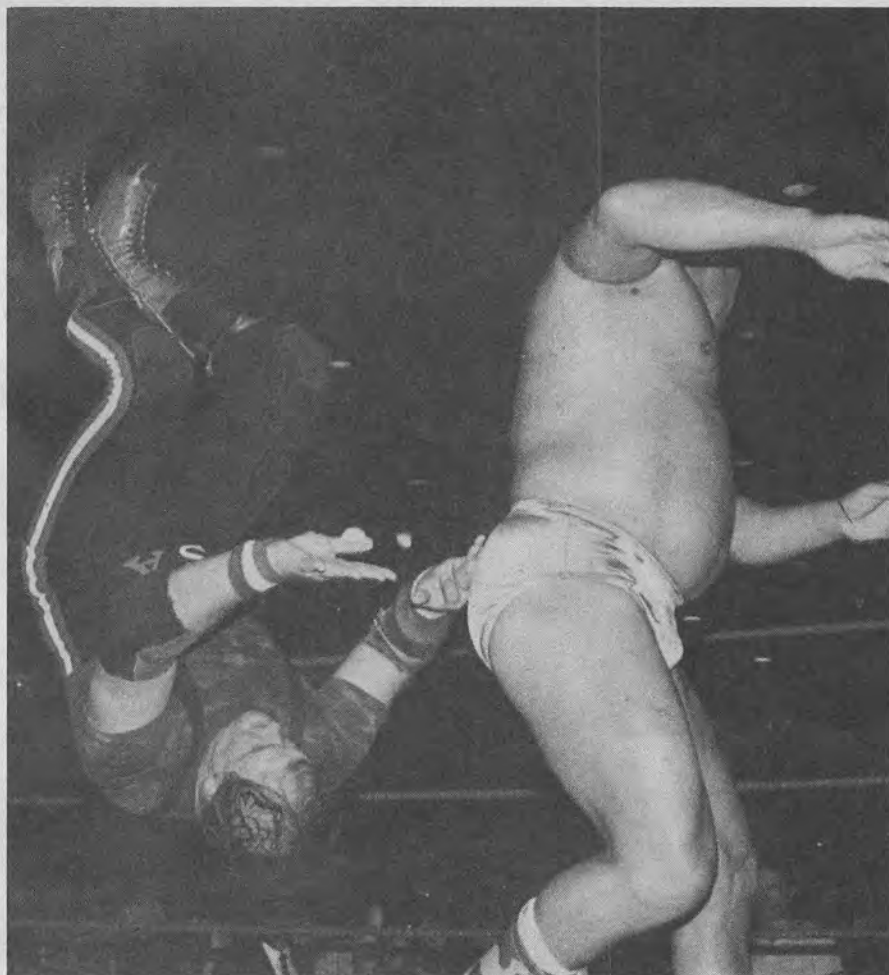
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Q&A

Each month, *The Wrestler* will present a "Question and Answer" forum with an important figure in the wrestling world. It is your chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars as they answer the questions uppermost in the fans' minds



The Iron Sheik backflips Sgt. Slaughter during a recent confrontation in New York. The Slaughter-Sheik feud began in 1984, and is still going strong today.

- Q:** Sheik, I hope you're not hungry. This place couldn't serve a decent platter of fried rat, but the coffee's great.
- A:** Shut up, you stupid American writer! Don't waste my time with your bad jokes. Ask what you have to ask. I have to be in the Memphis, Tennessee, tomorrow.
- Q:** You recently had a match with Sgt. Slaughter in Stevensville, New York, and the action got pretty rough. Are we going to see a flare-up of the old Slaughter-Sheik wars?
- A:** Slaughter Sergeant does not worry The Iron Sheik. In Iran, thousands and thousands of men are tougher and braver than your American sergeant. He has to cheat in many ways to defeat the Sheik. That match you talk about in the New York Scatskills . . .
- Q:** Uh, that's Catskills.
- A:** . . . that match was prime example of what Slaughter must do to beat me.
- Q:** I'd say it's a prime example of what *you* have to do to *win*. First, you pull an eight-inch steel rod out of your tights; then you turn the match into a chair-throwing brawl. You were disqualified!
- A:** Now I know why you wear the glasses, Mr. Bob Smith, you did not see what really happened. Referee cheated. I was the winner. What kind of reporter are you? Even Mr. Bill Apter, who I do not



THE IRON SHEIK

IF THERE IS one man in wrestling who hates America with a burning passion, it is The Iron Sheik. The Iranian veteran has built a career on feuding with American patriots—most notably Sgt. Slaughter, with whom he had an unforgettable WWF war in 1984.

The Sheik's hatred of the U.S. is surpassed only by his love for his native country. Sheik represented Iran in the 1968 Olympics and frequently speaks of the experience. And after he beat Bob Backlund for the WWF World title on December 26, 1983, he bragged that he'd defend the belt in Teheran, but his short (less than one month) title reign prevented this from taking place.

Despite his pride in his homeland, the Sheik's first allegiance is to himself. Accordingly, he wrestles as an independent, refusing to tie himself to any one organization. This gives him the chance to meet a wide range of opponents and sharpen his already considerable wrestling skills.

Assistant Editor Bob Smith interviewed the Sheik at a diner in Menands, New York, a small town outside Albany, where the Sheik had just won another match. "He wasn't in the greatest mood," Smith recalled, "but he was agreeable enough to give a good interview."



Sheik clamps a headscissors on Slaughter. Five years after losing the WWF title to Hulk Hogan, the Sheik still feels he is the rightful champion. The Sheik had other great moments in the WWF, like winning the tag team title with Nikolai Volkoff.

trust either, knows what has happened. He was there. Go and ask him about the Sheik.

Q: Since he's not here, I can't, so let's move on. You recently had a rough battle in Puerto Rico with Ronnie Garvin. As you may know, Garvin is headed for the WWF. What kind of a competitor is he?

A: Garvin is a tough man. I don't see many Americans as tough as Garvin. Sometimes I don't like him, but I have a lot of respect for him. I will admit I did not win that match, but Garvin would be man

enough to give me rematch if he was not going to WWF. He will do good there, I predict. Maybe I will follow him back there soon.

Q: You mean you're returning to the WWF?

A: Don't jump on conclusions, Mr. Bob Smith, I will wrestle *anywhere* in the world, but WWF is not in my plans at this moment. I still consider myself WWF champion. Idiot Hulk Hogan was not supposed to wrestle me that night. I was supposed to have rematch with Howdy Doody Bob Backlund.

There was conspiracy against me and my manager Ayatollah Freddie Blassie. WWF officials do not want Iranian to be champion. It does not look good for American image. They were afraid I would take the belt back to Teheran, Iran, and defend it against all the great Persian champions. Persia is great for three things: oil, rugs, and wrestling. Look at the Sheik, and you see why.

Q: You're digging all this up again after five years? There was no controversy. Hogan was a legitimate substitute for Backlund and he pinned you cleanly in the middle of the ring. I might add that Backlund couldn't make it because he'd been injured by you.

A: Don't let me hear stupid excuses! Who is paying you to attack Sheik? You remind me of that Gene Mean. I am honorable man. You smear my character with these lies. I try to be honest with you, and you insult me.

Q: I'm just doing my job. If you're so angry about Hogan, why don't you go back to the WWF and wrestle him?

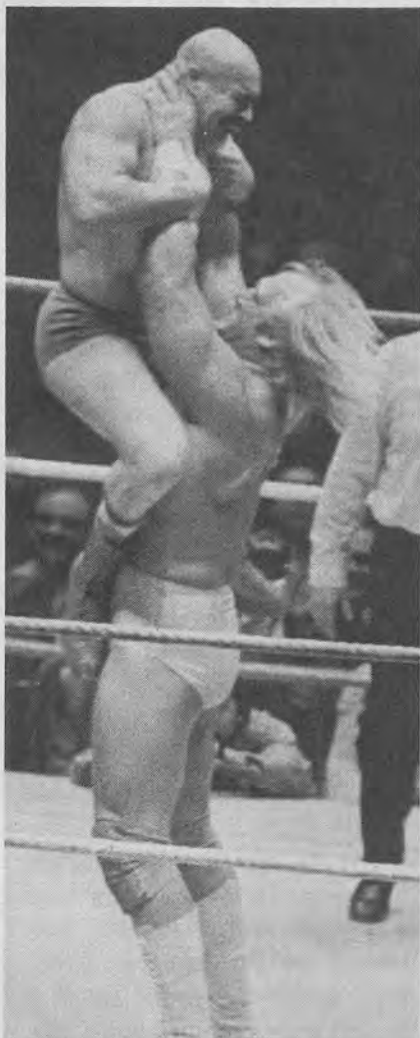
A: I have no need to prove anything to Hogan. The people know I am a superior wrestler to him. They know I am the champion. Everybody knows the camel clutch is greatest move ever used in the ring.

Q: You bring up a good point. There's no denying that you're an

outstanding scientific grappler. You're a recognized master of the suplex and, as you said, your camel clutch is an excellent submission hold. So why do you so often resort to illegal tactics?

A: If my opponent wants to wrestle, I will wrestle. But these men know Sheik is a better wrestler, so they try to cheat. I have to protect myself. Many men want to put me out of the wrestling, but so far nobody can do it. I have a long career and win many titles. Everywhere, intelligent people love the Sheik. They know all I have accomplished. Even some Americans are intelligent enough to know Sheik is number one.

Q: I don't want to get into another argument, but I've seen you use the first illegal maneuver dozens of



Hulk Hogan lifts Sheik up by the neck on his way to the WWF championship. Sheik has no plans to wrestle the "Hulkster," but says he could easily defeat him.



As he carries the Iranian flag to the ring, the Sheik is greeted by a loyal fan. Although he doesn't currently wrestle in one of the major federations, the Sheik is well-known by fans throughout the world.

times in matches.

A: Again, more ridiculous nonsense. I will tell you again. I never cheat. Thousands and thousands of Arab people proud to have Sheik as their champion. They would not support man who cheated. They are good people. You are liar. You try to destroy the Sheik.

Q: It's obvious I'm not going to get anywhere with this line of questioning. You pride yourself on your physical condition. How do you keep in shape when you're on the road all the time?

A: I have good body because of exercise. Not so much traditional weights, because they make you stiff; sometimes I lift, but I also use Iranian club exercise. Also I do

a lot of running for building stamina for long matches. Many of the wrestlers today, they run out of breath after short time in the ring. That will never happen to me. I can go 60 minutes with any man in wrestling. I have made myself a great champion athlete. Nobody who wrestles the Sheik forgets him. I have punished many opponents with my power.

Q: I'm surprised you don't do much tag teaming anymore. When you and Nikolai Volkoff were the WWF World tag team champs, you were quite an awesome combination.

A: It's true that me and Nikolai were greatest team in history of WWF and everywhere else. That is another

er title that was stolen from me by stinking officials. Now Nikolai has good partner in Boris Zuhov. I wish him well. I can find my own partners when I do the tag team wrestling. But now it is best for me to wrestle alone. Then nobody can tell the Sheik what to do.

Q: Are you saying that you would have been better off without a man like Fred Blassie guiding your career?

A: Do not twist my words, American propagandist. Fred Blassie is great manager and very wise man. He took me to WWF title and tag team title. He was the only American to respect the Sheik. But because he is retired from wrestling, there is nobody else I can trust. So it is better to do things myself.

Q: Do you think you'd ever be a manager yourself?

A: Why should I waste my time as a manager? I still have many years left as wrestler. Slaughter Sergeant is on my target list. I am not done with that disgraceful American. He has insulted me for all these years and he will pay. Right now I am going to challenge him to a match anywhere. If he wants a boot camp match, he can have it. Any fight he wants I will give to him.

Q: Slaughter has always said he'll meet you anywhere, but he says he can never find you.

A: He says those things because he is afraid of me. If he were such a brave Marine, he wouldn't be running from me. It will be my pleasure to tear him apart next time we meet. That idiot will learn I am tough man. He started this a long time ago, and now I will finish him.

Q: I'm sure I speak for all wrestling fans when I say I'm looking forward to the next series of Sheik-Slaughter matches. I hope you guys can get together on this.

A: Don't tell me, tell Slaughter. I am waiting, Mr. Sergeant. I am waiting for you to leave Island Parris, or wherever it is you live, and come wrestle the Sheik. ☐

Wrestling 89

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SPOT LIGHTS...

From time to time, *The Wrestler* will shine its spotlight on an outstanding wrestler, manager, or tag team. These are unforgettable highlights of the sport's greatest stars, compiled by the largest staff of editors and photographers in wrestling journalism

KAMALA

WHEN WORDS LIKE "brutal," "savage," and "vicious" are tossed around, one wrestler who quickly comes to mind is Kamala, the Ugandan giant.

Weighing close to 400 pounds, Kamala wins most of his matches on pure size alone, though he does possess a surprising amount of agility. These skills have served him well in feuds with some of the biggest stars in virtually every federation in the sport.

And while he has shown signs of dominance, Kamala has never been given credit for winning those feuds. Men like Andre the Giant, Bruiser Brody, and Hulk Hogan have attested to Kamala's tenacity.

Kamala was brought to the United States in the early 1980s. He had a reputation of being a cannibal, though this allegation has never been proven. Kamala began wrestling in the Mid-Southern area, where he met up with Jerry Lawler. "The King" gave Kamala some wrestling lessons he wouldn't soon forget.

The mighty Ugandan hasn't been afraid to wrestle men close to his size. Some of his larger opponents have included One Man Gang (now Akeem), Jerry Blackwell, Terry Gordy, King Kong Bundy, and Abdullah the Butcher. He has also battled several world champions, including Hulk Hogan and Harley Race.

Kamala has participated in some of the biggest cards in wrestling history,



At almost 400 pounds, Kamala is one of the most fearsome men in the history of the sport. He came to the United States from the jungles of Uganda.

but he hasn't been too successful. At The Great American Bash in 1985, he lost to Magnum T.A., who maneuvered him into a belly-to-belly suplex. In 1986, Sgt. Slaughter defeated Kama-

la by disqualification at the AWA's WrestleRock when Akbar interfered. That was followed by another memorable battle with the Sarge in a boot camp steel cage match in New Jersey's Byrne Meadowlands Arena.

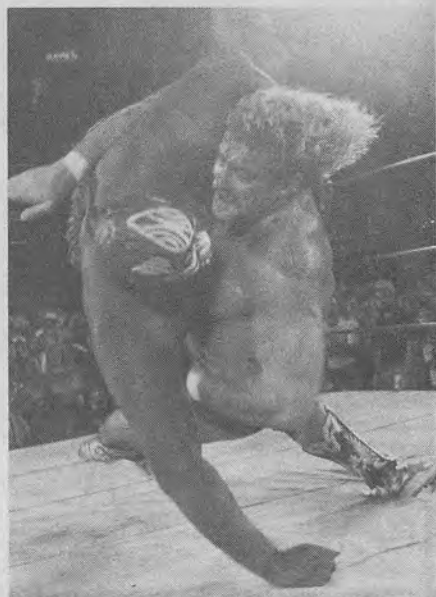
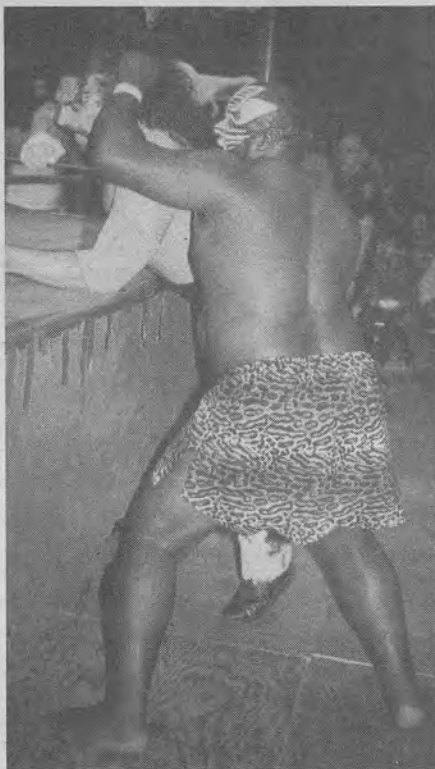
Aside from Gen. Skandor Akbar, Kamala has had several managers. Jimmy Hart, Fred Blassie, and The Wizard all take some credit for developing Kamala into a star, although they've always had trouble communicating with him. The Ugandan has frequently been seen with Friday and Kim Chee, two masked men who are said to be the only ones who can truly understand and control him.

Although Kamala has won titles—among them the Southern championship and the World Class six-man belt—titles have never seemed important to him. His first objective has always been to hurt his opponent. To that end, he has perfected a big splash that has disabled even the hardest foes. If Kamala ever wins a world championship, this is the move he'll use to do it.

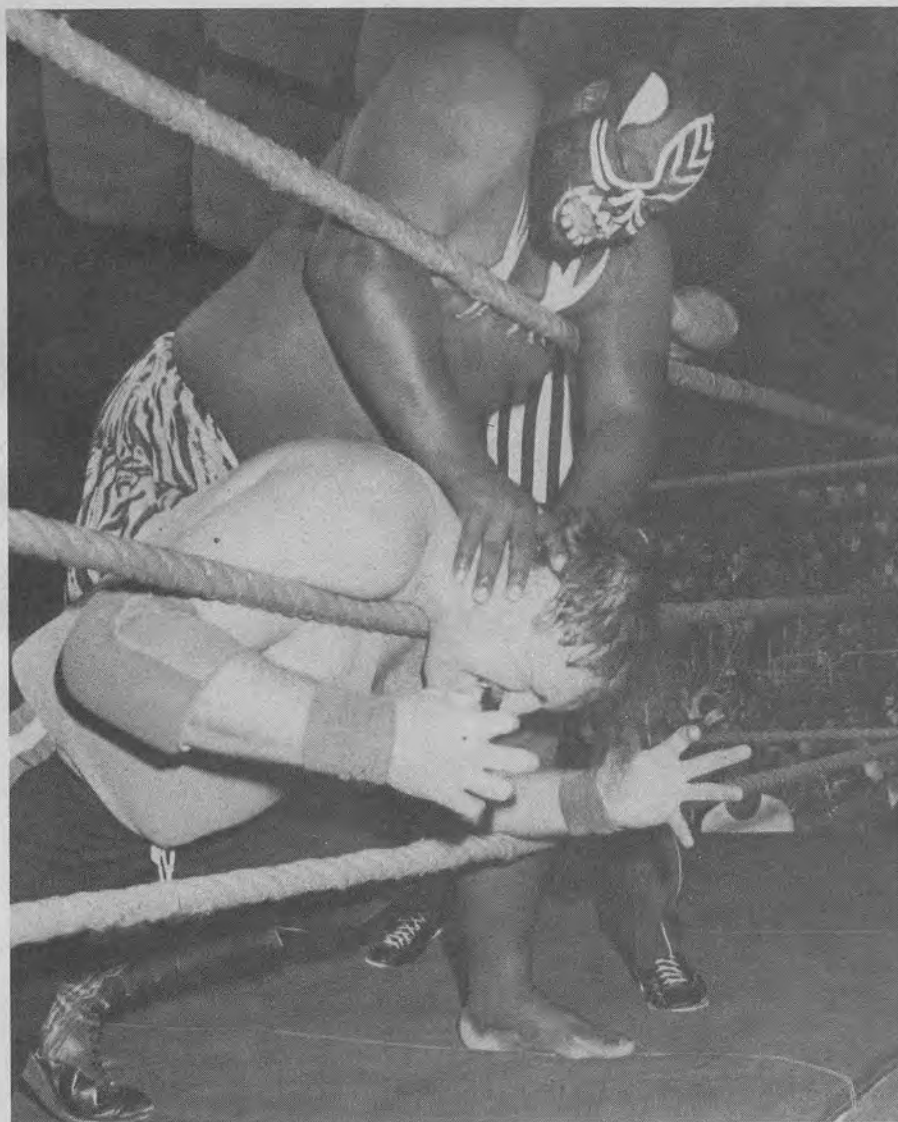
The Ugandan is currently doing the bulk of his wrestling in World Class, but has a hot feud going with "Boogie-Woogie Man" Jimmy Valiant in Puerto Rico. Despite outweighing Valiant by almost 200 pounds, Kamala is finding that Valiant is not so easily crushed. As this feud rages, *The Wrestler* takes a close look at Kamala's whirlwind career.



Jerry Lawler throws fire at Kamala (above), who first made his mark in Lawler's home city of Memphis. The Ugandan Giant throws Bruiser Brody back in the ring during one of their many Texas battles (right).



Magnum T.A. executes a belly-to-belly suplex on Kamala at the 1985 Great American Bash (above). Kamala nearly lifts Kerry Von Erich off the mat with a pectoral hold (below).

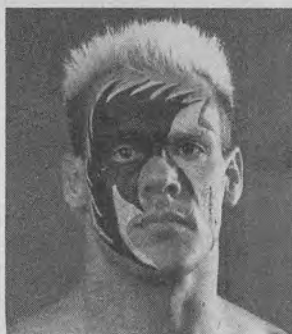


Kamala holds Sgt. Slaughter on the ropes neckfirst (left). The Ugandan blasts Hulk Hogan with a kick to the jaw during a WWF title match in 1987 (below).



THE WRESTLER PANEL EXAMINES

RAY



STING

Each month **THE WRESTLER'S** panel of experts will offer their candid opinions of one of wrestling's stars. Whether an up-and-coming youngster or an established superstar in his own right, our panel will always be frank and honest without fear of reprisal



Sting executes his highly effective finishing maneuver—the scorpion leglock—on Barry Windham. In less than three years, Sting has made a major impact on the sport, giving U.S. champion Windham and NWA World titlist Ric Flair some of their most difficult challenges.



CAPT. LOU ALBANO

"I wish Sting had been around during my managing days! His speed, power, ring smarts—combined with my brains—would have catapulted him to a world title by now. But if he plays his cards right, Sting should be able to beat Ric Flair even without my help. All he needs to do is be patient. He's got to keep dogging Flair until he gets more of the title shots he deserves. Flair's definitely going down in 1989, and Sting's gonna be the dude that beats him."

Capt. Lou Albano, long known as "The Guiding Light," has guided 13 tag teams to an unmatched 16 WWF World tag team titles.



KILLER KOWALSKI

"Frankly, I'm a little tired of all the hype surrounding this guy. Sure, Sting is a good wrestler. He's been blessed with an abundance of speed, there are few wrestlers who are stronger, and he rarely makes a mistake. But where are all the titles? Everybody says he can beat Flair for the NWA World title and Barry Windham for his U.S. belt, but the last time I checked, Sting was still on the list of contenders. I think he's just a flash in the pan."

Killer Kowalski, one of the most sadistic rulebreakers in the sport's history, runs a wrestling school in Reading, Massachusetts.



PROF. TORU TANAKA

"To me, this Sting is nothing but copycat, as you say. He obviously take his make-up style from the great Japanese Kabuki theater. He also take his scorpion leglock from Japanese wrestling stars. His influences are superior, but his reliance on fans will prove to be his undoing. I understand that Sting will soon tour Japan. This is a very big mistake. The great Japanese wrestlers will prove once and for all that this man is not a worthy foe."

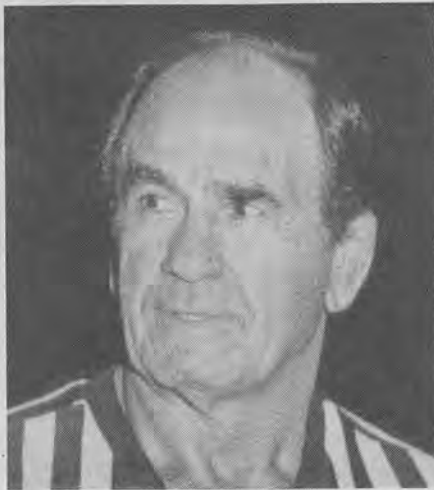
Prof. Tanaka, a three-time co-holder of the WWF World tag team title with Mr. Fuji, is currently a successful actor.



LARRY HENNIG

"Pretty boy punk. *Ooh, look at me with all my cute makeup!* This guy just makes me want to puke. Sure, he's got some talent, but it's all being wasted teaming with guys like Lex Luger and Dusty Rhodes. If you ask me, Sting was better off a couple of years ago, when he was managed by Eddie Gilbert and teaming with Rick Steiner. But now, Gilbert, Steiner, and Sting are all catering to the fans! Is nothing sacred? Doesn't anybody have any integrity anymore?"

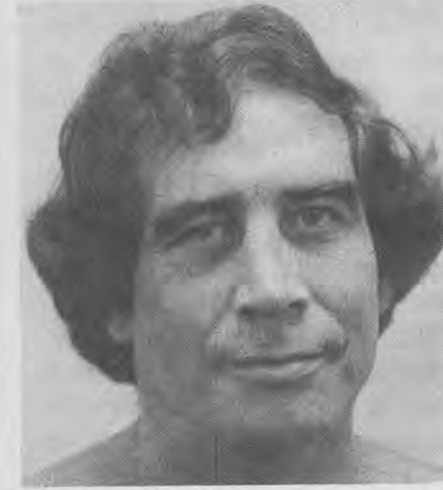
Larry "The Ax" Hennig is a four-time former AWA World tag team champion; he held three of those titles with Harley Race.



LOU THESZ

"It's very hard to find much fault with this young man. To me, he's the perfect blend of substance and style. Sure, he's flashy and likes to have a good time, but when it comes time to wrestle, he gets his 'game face' on in a hurry. There aren't very many people who can match him hold for hold, and his scorpion leglock is one of the few finishers that has never been broken. Take it from me, Sting's star has only begun to shine. His future is limitless."

Lou Thesz held the NWA World title six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Many consider him the greatest all-round wrestler in history.



JACK BRISCO

"I used to employ the figure-four leglock quite often back when I was NWA champion, but I've never seen anything quite like Sting's scorpion. With the figure-four, opponents could sometimes roll over or reach for the ropes, and I would have to break the hold. Sting doesn't have that problem, because once he has his opponent locked in, he's there to stay. It's a fabulous maneuver, one that I'm sure will someday lock up a major singles title, so to speak."

Jack Brisco is a two-time former NWA World champion, and a three-time former NWA World tag team champion with brother Jerry.

When Jeff Jarrett found himself on the receiving end of some exceptionally rough treatment—from people he once considered friends—the young champion vowed to never let it happen again!

Blood, Belts, & Broken Friendships:

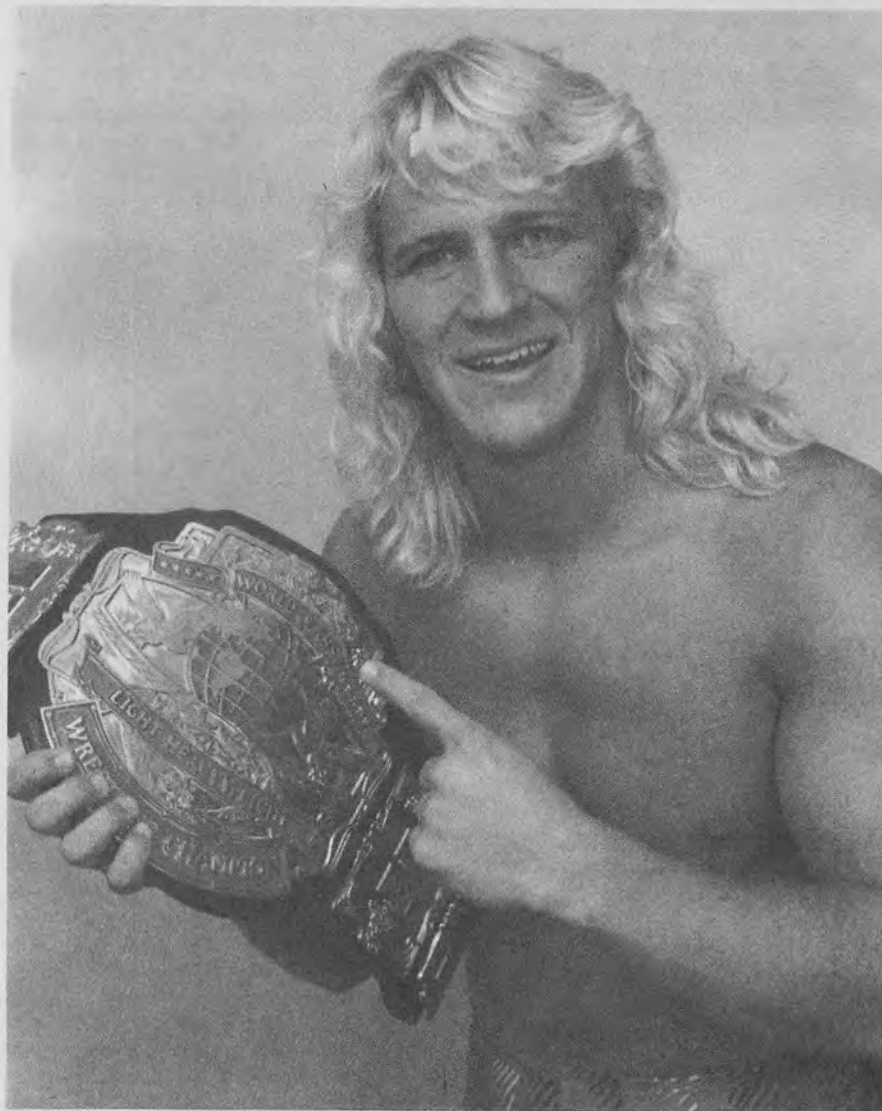
THE YOUNG WRESTLER sat on a wooden bench in front of his locker, trying to ignore the pain that raced through his bones and the blood that trickled down his face. He suddenly realized he had become an ex-champion.

"Damn, I can't get used to these Texas rules," moaned Jeff Jarrett, who had just relinquished the World Class light heavyweight title to Eric Embry. "Embry's a man I thought I trusted, but I'm not so sure anymore. I'm starting to realize that everybody thinks I'm a pretty big threat these days."

Welcome to the big time, Jeff.

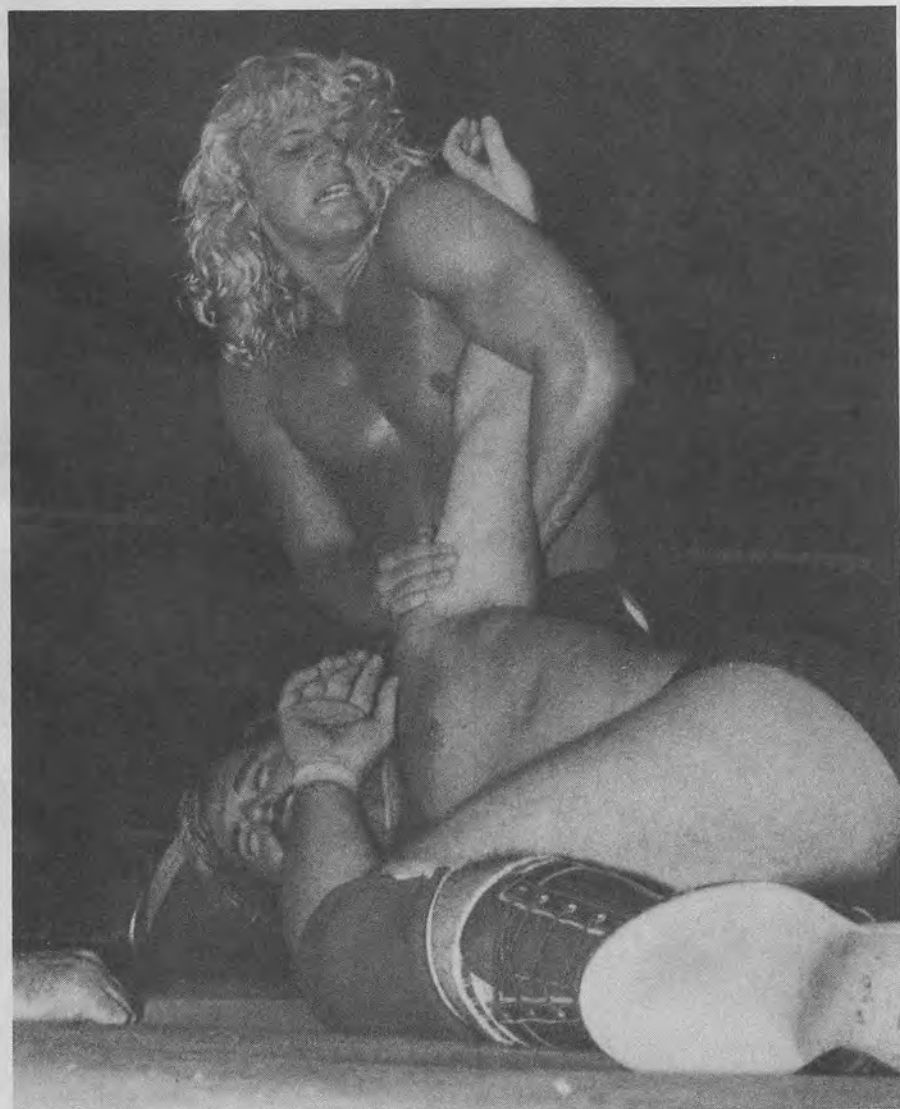
It's been a long, hard road to stardom for second-generation wrestler Jeff Jarrett, but fans in the World Class and AWA areas are now finding out what CWA fans have known for months: Jarrett has blossomed into one of the premier grapplers in the sport. All it took was a slight attitude adjustment on Jarrett's part.

Even as recently as one year ago, Jarrett never would have wrestled like he did on November 11 at The Sportatorium in Dallas. Embry had hurled Jarrett from the ring after referee Bronco Lubich was accidentally knocked out. Seeing Lubich unconscious, Em-



Jeff Jarrett proudly displays the World Class light heavyweight championship belt over which he has been feuding with Eric Embry. The war with Embry has seen Jarrett mature significantly as a top-level competitor.

JEFF JARRETT COMES OF AGE!



Jarrett immobilizes Embry with a figure-four armlock. Jarrett possesses one of the sport's most underrated scientific attacks, but opponents are beginning to respect—and fear—this young star's significant skills.

bry slammed Jarrett with a steel folding chair.

Jarrett, however, was prepared for this kind of an attack. He quickly recovered from the blow and savagely rammed Embry's head into the steel ringpost. He then picked up the chair and slammed it hard across Embry's back, costing him a disqualification from the recovered Lubich. Many fans were surprised to see Jarrett willing to mix it up so violently with his veteran opponent.

"How can I regret what I did?" responded Jarrett afterward. "Sure, I lost the title because of the World Class disqualification rule, and I might have lost a friend in the bargain. But it's clear that Eric tried to hurt me tonight. I had no choice but to pay him back. I've learned what they say about nice guys finishing last is true."

Less than a month earlier, Jarrett had scored one of the biggest victories of his career when he won the World Class light heavyweight title from Embry at the Cotton Bowl. "Embry called it one of the greatest scientific matches of the decade," spit Jarrett. "A month later, he creams me with a chair. Who can you trust?"

(Continued on page 50)

“You’ve Got Me All Wrong!”



RIC FLAIR ANSWERS HIS CRITICS

FOR A MAN who has held the NWA World title for most of the past seven years—an astounding 2,374 days out of 2,624 (as of press time)—Ric Flair has come under tremendous criticism. His detractors claim that he often gets himself disqualified or relies on manager J.J. Dillon's interference to save the belt. And even those who recognize Flair's incredible wrestling ability admit that, since his most recent title reign began on November 26, 1987, Flair's once-intense schedule of title defenses has fallen off markedly.

With this in mind, the editors of *The Wrestler* decided to give Flair a unique chance to answer the charges. Flair, in return, promised to answer each question in a straightforward manner, without relying on the double-talk he often uses in his TV interviews. It's Ric Flair in defense of the reputation he regards as dearly as his World title.

Flair arrived at our offices resplendent in a Hugo Boss designer suit and a pair of imported Bally's shoes. One thing is for certain: Flair looks like a champion. He also travels like one. He flew into New York in a private jet and was delivered to our offices in a stretch limousine.



NWA World champion Ric Flair makes Lex Luger cry out in pain with an armtwist. Luger was Flair's most persistent challenger for the title in 1988, a year in which Flair was the target of unprecedented criticism for his championship tactics.

One final note: The questions asked were compiled from letters we have received. They are based on the criticisms most often made of the NWA World champ. What follows is a compilation of Flair's answers.

I'm often asked how important the NWA World title is to me, and that's an easy question to answer. To me, the NWA World title is the most important sports trophy in the entire

world. It's the reason I'm a wrestler. People say, 'Ric Flair is only concerned about money,' but that title doesn't have a monetary value on it. It means everything to me.

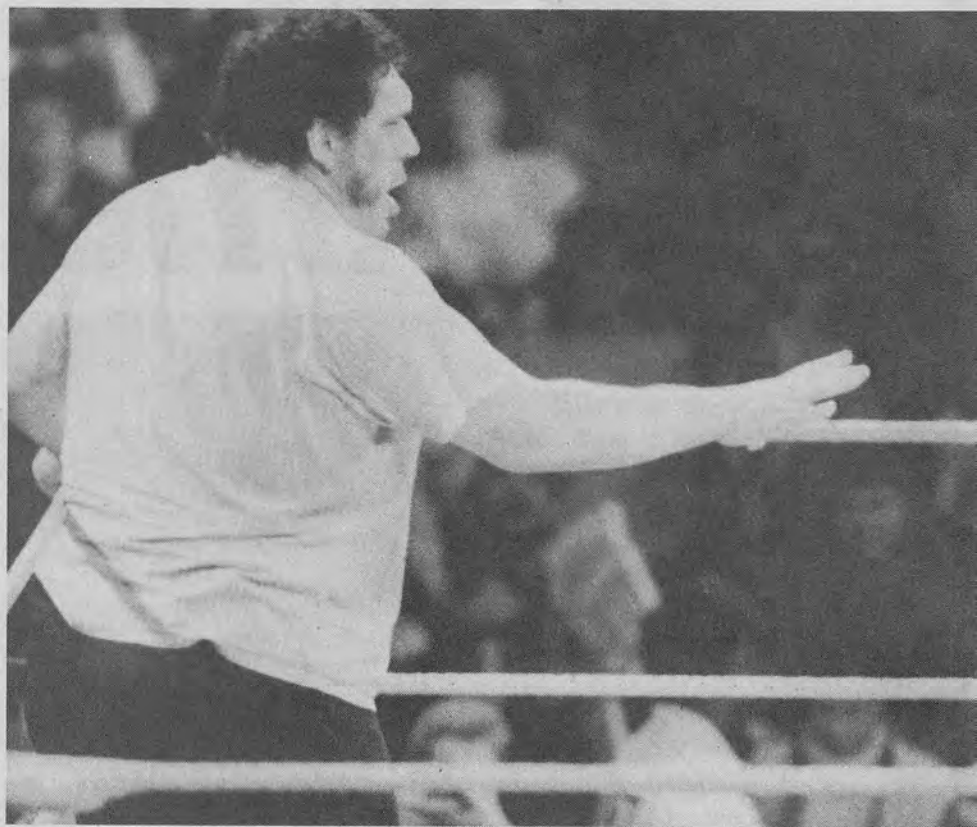
The belt, that's all. I've heard people say, "Ric Flair is destroying the image of the NWA World title," and I have one answer to that: Ric Flair is the NWA World title. Since 1981, this belt has been mine. It's the only image the

(Continued on page 54)

NWA World champion Ric Flair is constantly coming under fire for the way he defends his belt, but he rarely has a chance to fire back. In this unique article, we give Flair his chance. His comments make for fascinating reading

SCARED

“Don’t Say



Andre the Giant, a man who has fears nothing, right? Wrong! Jake's biggest weakness—snakes—and is using

WHEN ANDRE THE Giant fainted in the middle of the ring after being threatened by Jake Roberts and his pet boa constrictor Damien, wrestling fans saw a side of the 7'5", 497-pound giant they had never seen.

But Andre's fear of snakes is not restricted to Damien; it's haunted him since childhood.

"Once, when Andre was about nine years old, he was in a clearing in the woods with some other children, roasting marshmallows over a campfire," reported Jacques LeBlanc, a boyhood acquaintance

of Andre's. "Tired of sitting on the hard rocks—he was a pretty big kid, even back then—he got up for a moment and walked around. He came upon the site of an old campfire and saw a piece of old wood lying inside the circle of rocks that formed the pit.

"Curious, he picked up the wood and, to his horror, saw a long, orange snake. He threw the wood to the ground, ran toward the other children, and yelled, 'Everybody run, it's a snake!' Thinking Andre—or Jean, his given name—had spotted a poisonous snake, the oth-

Snake!!!!

Photos by David Fitzgerald



beaten every top star in the sport,
Roberts recently uncovered Andre's
Damien to turn it to his best advantage!

er children ran away. But one of the older men, who had stayed behind to put out the fire, saw that the snake was neither big nor poisonous. It was perfectly harmless. Still, that incident shows how far back Andre's fear of snakes goes."

This story is one of many that have been told about Andre since his fear of snakes was first revealed on national TV. In that incident, Roberts threw Damien onto Andre, who recoiled in fear and fainted. Several attendants were summoned to help him back to the dressing room. Initial reports of a heart at-

tack, understandable considering Andre's violent reaction, thankfully proved false.

A few weeks later, Brother Love mentioned the word "snake" several times while talking about the incident. Andre grabbed Love by the throat and yelled, "Don't ever say that word *snake* to me again."

And so, for the first time in two decades, Andre the Giant, the biggest man in wrestling, has revealed a fear. It is a weakness most people were never aware of, one he has divulged only to his closest

(Continued on page 56)

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THERE ARE TIMES when things get so bad, a wrestler can't do anything—a new move, a new manager, a different aspect of his repertoire—to turn it around. Any change in style or attitude only mires him deeper in the slump and takes him further away from his ultimate goals.

At that point, a wrestler must return to his roots. He must discover what got him so far in the first

place, follow that same path, and not take the wrong turns at the critical moments.

Bam Bam Bigelow has reached the point where he must decide whether a change for the worst would mean a change for the better.

For the past two years, this 368-pound tattooed monster/man—who once made his living as a fearless bounty hunter—has wrestled to the

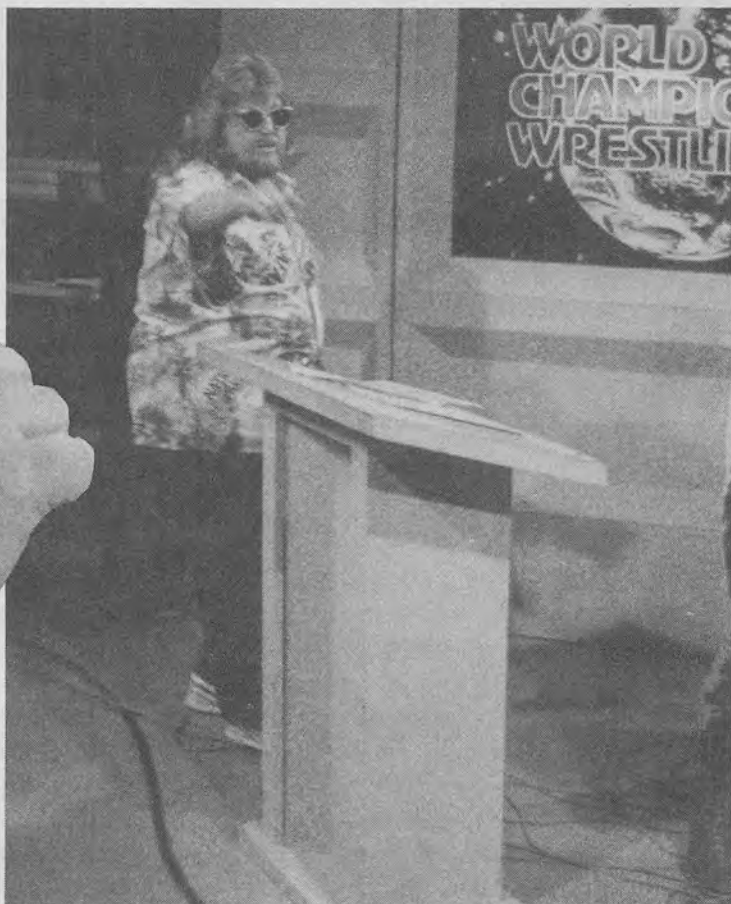
cheers of the fans. He has amazed the wrestling world with an incredible combination of unreal power and superb aerial skills. He has defied the accepted image of the big man and proven that size has nothing to do with agility.

But he has gone nowhere.

In the WWF, Bigelow was involved in a useless feud against One Man Gang. He never got a match for the WWF World title. He

IF BAM BAM BEAT

Photos by Len McAlister & Emmy Yates



HE'LL

never even had a chance to wrestle The Honky Tonk Man for the Intercontinental belt. So he went on to several independent federations. He finally landed in the NWA, where he was immediately granted a shot at U.S. champion Barry Windham.

Now, he must prove that he *is* a champion. If he doesn't, he might decide to return to his rotten roots—the roots that once made him a champion.

"I think something's gone wrong with him," AWA World champion Jerry Lawler said. Lawler wrestled Bigelow several times when Bam Bam first entered the Mid-Southern area in June 1986. When Bigelow returned to Memphis in early 1987, the two former rivals formed an outstanding tag team. Lawler remembers the early years, a time when Bigelow was young, hungry, and mean.

"Well, he's *still* young," Lawler said. "I'm not saying Bigelow should turn his back on the fans, but there comes a time when you have to resort to killer instinct. Bigelow still has it somewhere; he just has to get it back."

"Here's a guy who had all the tools, plus he didn't care what he had to do to win," Editor-in-Chief Stu Saks said. "You know, he never
(Continued on page 60)

BIGELOW CAN'T BARRY WINDHAM—



As a rookie, he was the toughest, meanest man in wrestling, an animal that could kill an opponent with his bare hands. Now a three-year veteran, Bigelow is no longer tough, no longer mean, and no longer a champion. He has reached a crossroads: succeed—or turn bad again!

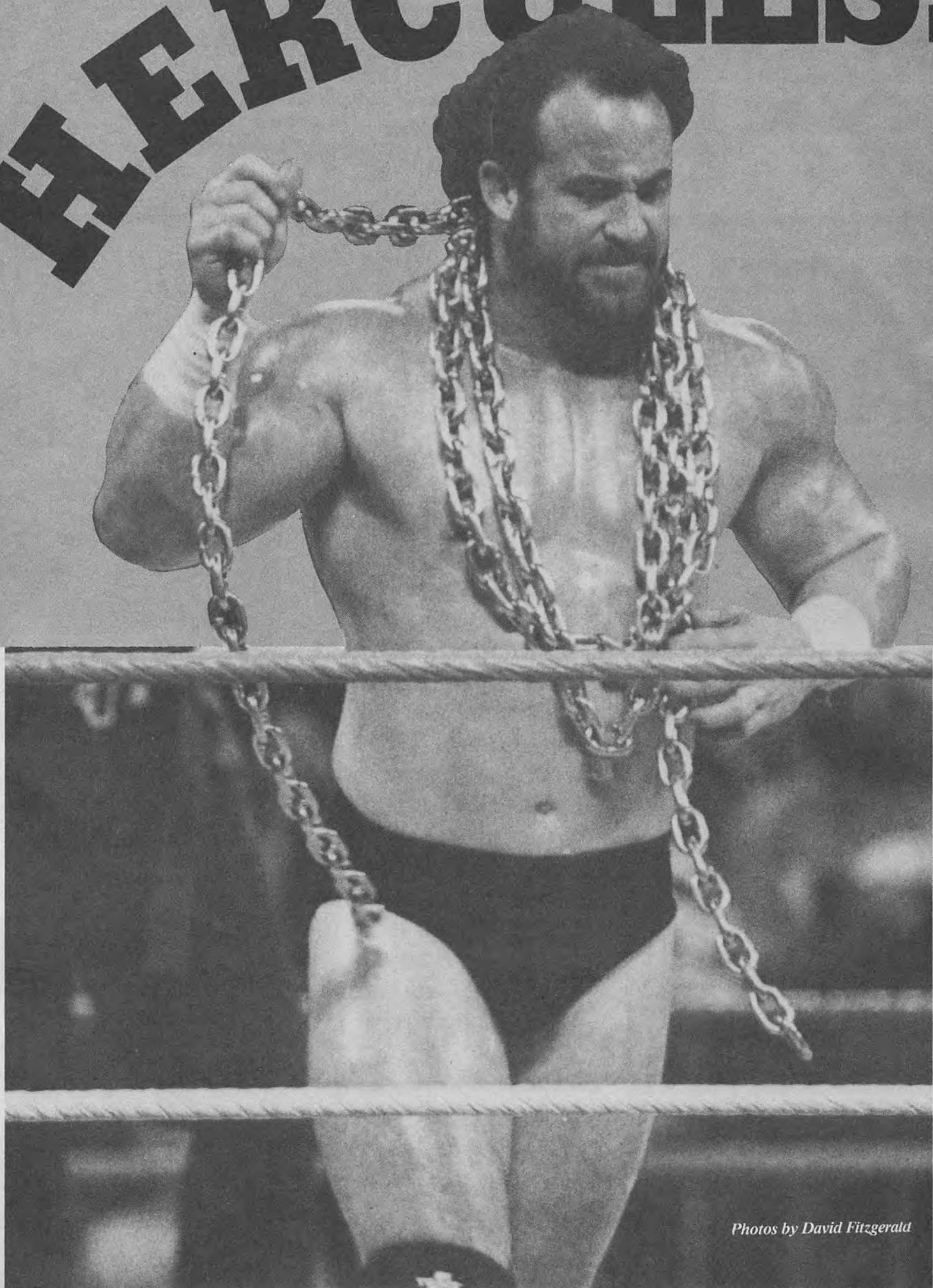


Bigelow attacks U.S. champion Barry Windham during an interview (far left) and armlocks him during a title match (above). Windham's clawhold is effective against Bigelow (below).



TURN BAD!

HERCULES:



Photos by David Fitzgerald

A SLAVE TO THE FANS

By Eddie Ellner

DRAPED IN CHAINS, Hercules Hernandez has the look of a man who was born into slavery. The embittered stare, the silent introspection, the muscular body conditioned by years of hard work; they all speak of an upbringing tainted by domination. In more ways than one, Hercules has lived his life as a chained animal.

Throughout his career, Hercules has always been *someone's* slave. Manager Gary Royal brought Hercules to wrestling in 1980, and since then he has consistently had a manager to tell him what to do. Paul Jones was next, followed by Jim Cornette, Sunshine, Percy Pringle, Fred Blassie, Slick, and Bobby Heenan. Most recently, Hercules fought off an attempt by Ted DiBiase to buy him into bondage. By fighting for his freedom, Hercules emerged as a fan favorite. Freedom, however, had its price. Although he successfully broke away from his oppressors, Hercules acquired a new master: the fans.

As a slave to the fans, Hercules may be hindered much like Andre the Giant was when *he* was a fan favorite. It was only when Andre turned against the fans that he



Ted DiBiase chokes Hercules with his own chain to prevent Virgil from submitting to the full-nelson. Although he successfully broke away from DiBiase, Hercules is finding that it's not so easy to ignore the fans' wishes.

began to receive the title shots he desired. Being beholden to public approval prevented Andre from wrestling in the rulebreaking style that would bring him the biggest successes of his career. It also prevented him from taking on then-WWF champion Hulk Hogan.

If Hercules allows the fans to dictate his wrestling style and, consequently, his opponents, he may be throwing away the same

chances for success that eventually came to Andre.

"You're talking about a man that needs to be told what to do," said Paul Jones, who managed Hercules five years ago. Jones, who is noted for harsh criticism of his former wrestlers, added, "The boy didn't have any guts, and always needed me to tell him what to do! He *loved* following orders."

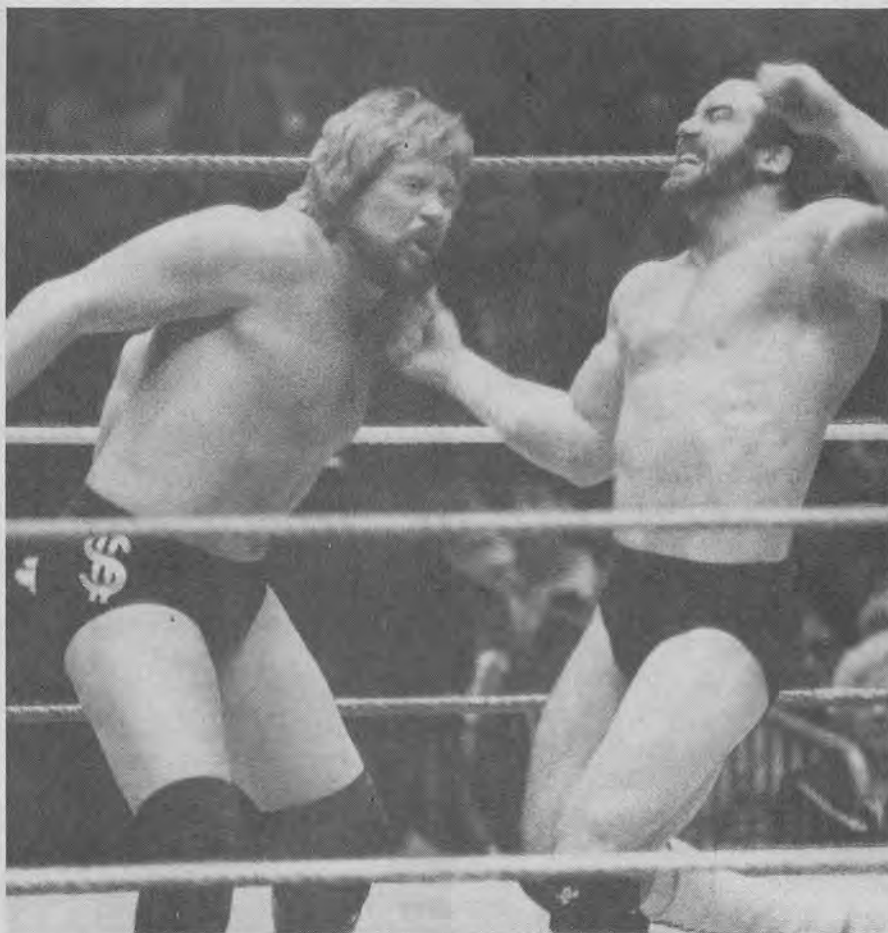
"Hernandez was probably the

Hercules Hernandez survived Ted DiBiase's attempt to buy him, but he did not retain his freedom. Instead of being DiBiase's servant, Hercules is a slave to the fans—who are demanding that he destroy the "Million-Dollar Man" and take a back seat to Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage!

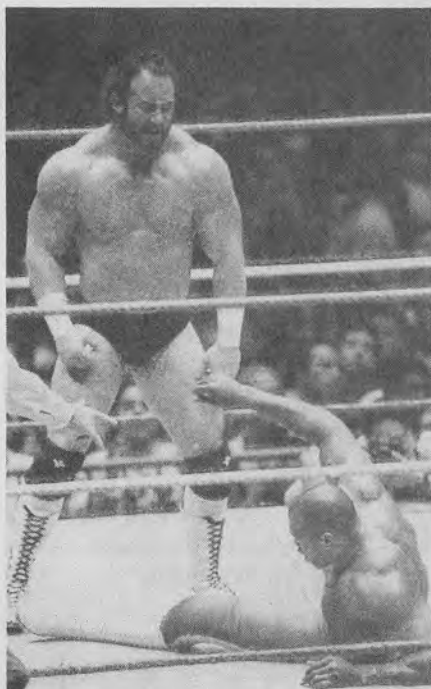
best listener of any wrestler I ever managed," said Jim Cornette, who guided Hernandez in the Mid-South area. "You tell him to do something, he'll do it to perfection. But miss a match, leave him on his own for a night, and he's in trouble—big trouble."

It was during his stay in the Mid-South in 1984 that Hernandez teamed with Ted DiBiase to win the Mid-South tag team title from The Rock 'n' Roll Express. After losing the belts back to the Express about three weeks later, he was contacted by Sunshine about the possibility of helping in her battle against the rulebreaking forces in Texas.

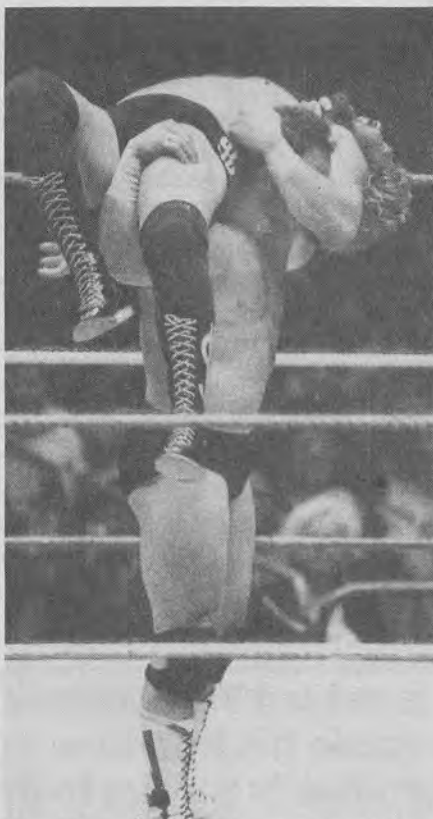
"I figured, after the loss, he was ready for a change," said Sunshine. "He said he would help me out, but being a fan favorite seemed to rub him the wrong way. In his first big match for me he was supposed to team with Kabuki against Chris Adams and Gino Hernandez at the second Von Erich Memorial Parade of Champions, but he never showed up. No calls, nothing. I'd be surprised if he lasts as a fan favor-



Hercules slugs DiBiase, who still considers him his slave. Over the years, Hercules has had several managers, leading some to wonder if the musclemen will ever make it on his own.



Hercules taunts a beaten and fallen Virgil (above left) and snares "Million-Dollar Man" DiBiase in a backbreaker (above right). Hercules is enjoying the fans' cheers as he batters his former friends, but are those cheers in fact enslaving him?



ite—on his own or with a manager—for long."

In the three years since Fred Blassie brought him to the WWF in June 1985, Hercules has been managed by Slick and Bobby Heenan. Ultimately, it was the attempted sale to DiBiase in September 1988 that awakened Hercules to once again abandon rulebreaking. During a television interview, DiBiase asked Heenan if he could buy Hercules. Without consulting Hercules, Heenan agreed. Hercules, now aware that he had been set up, refused to agree to the deal.

Hercules' "Declaration of Independence," as well as the subsequent beating at the hands of DiBiase and Virgil, ingratiated him to the fans, who immediately adopted the chained warrior as their own. But Hercules, whether he admitted it or not, was a slave again.

(Continued on page 49)

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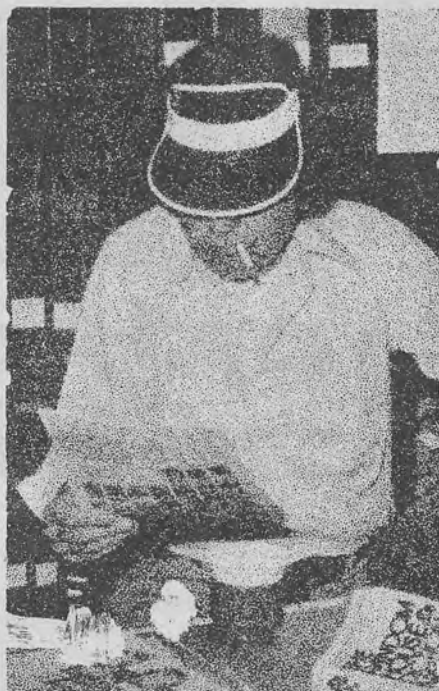
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MATT BROCK'S



LOOKING BACK

DECEMBER 1983

BARRY WINDHAM vs. J.J. DILLON

THE LAST TIME I saw Barry Windham and J.J. Dillon together was after a recent match in Savannah, Georgia. Barry had just defended his U.S. title against Bam Bam Bigelow, and he and his manager were celebrating.

"Come over here, Matt," Dillon said. "I want you to have some of this champagne with us."

Of course, I turned down Dillon's gracious offer. No journalist worth his salt would have a drink—even a glass of celebratory champagne—while on

the job. Besides, I *hate* champagne.

"Matt," Dillon said, "can you believe how Barry's improved since he came under my tutelage? I mean, he had natural talent, no doubt, but it was only since he became a member of my elite group that his career has really



Barry Windham rides J.J. Dillon to the mat in a match during their 1983 feud in Florida. As members of the Horsemen, Windham and Dillon are trying hard to forget those days, but Matt Brock won't.

taken off. Here's to you, Barry."

With that, Dillon raised his glass, clinked it with Windham's, and drained it to the bottom.

"Thanks, J.J." Windham said. "Thanks for a great eight months! Thanks for giving me a chance to finally turn against Dusty Rhodes, and thanks for getting me that U.S. title!"

This was too much for an old arena hound like me to bear.

"This is ridiculous!" I told them. "Here you are drinking champagne and celebrating. Have you forgotten that just five years ago, you guys were involved in one of the most violent feuds in the history of Florida? Have you forgotten the past, or are you just ignoring it?"

Needless to say, that certainly put a damper on the celebration.

"Forgotten the past?" Dillon said. "Of course not. Sure, I feuded with a youngster named Barry Windham back in Florida. But does anybody see that kid here today?"

No one answered until Windham broke the silence.

"What J.J. means is that the Barry Windham of 1988 and the Barry Windham of 1983 are two totally different people. In '83, I was naive. Now I'm one of the elite. So much has changed, and it's due to J.J.'s guidance. Look at the success I've had in the last few months. That's the *mature* Windham, the J.J. Dillon version."

Sure, the "J.J. Dillon version" of Barry Windham has achieved a high level of material success, but it's the 1983 version of Windham I prefer to remember. His feud with Dillon allowed him to utilize the raw energy and the youthful aggression that was his trademark back then.

One particular night in West Palm Beach, Florida, I witnessed more violence than a TV crew on Israel's West Bank. Windham and Dillon traded punches, kicks, and painful on-the-mat maneuvers in what turned out to be the feud's culmination. Shortly after this exciting match, Windham departed for Japan to regroup.

Regardless of the punishment Dillon delivered, it wasn't Dillon himself, but



Dillon's chokehold has Windham gasping for breath (above). Windham retaliates with a right hand (below). At the time, Dillon was managing Ron Bass and One Man Gang, who joined him in humiliating Windham. Dillon couldn't have imagined he'd someday manage Barry.



his client Ron Bass, who forced Windham to seek asylum in Japan. In those Florida days, Windham and Dusty Rhodes were allied against Dillon and Bass. After Windham successfully defended his Florida championship (and won Bass' beloved western saddle), Bass, Dillon, and One Man Gang avenged the loss by beating Windham, slapping the saddle on his back, and forcing him to give Bass a ride. This incident shamed Windham enough to leave the country.

When Windham returned, disgrace still haunted him. He couldn't stomach the idea of wrestling before the same fans who saw him humiliated. Instead, he opted to don a mask and bill himself as The Dirty Yellow Dog. His pri-

mary target was J.J. Dillon.

In early 1984, Windham—as Yellow Dog—continued being malicious in the ring. He fought for a purpose, for revenge, and for justice. That was the Florida version of Barry Windham, and I will never forget it.

The 1988 version of Windham has come out of Dillon's mold as a suit-and-tie, businessman/wrestler. He doesn't fight for justice, he fights for money. He doesn't seek revenge from his enemies, he seeks fame. Five years have turned Barry into a poor man's version of Dillon: egotistical, wealthy, and lazy. In Barry's eyes, this makes him a success.

In my eyes, it makes him a failure. □

YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 7)

Unfortunately, I have to tell you that I'm not really 22 years old, I'm only 19. I'm sure it was only an innocent typographical error, but I would like to set the record straight.

Once again, thank you for the article, and I hope you'll be paying close attention to my career as me and Kendall Windham—The Texas Broncos—invade the NWA!

DUSTIN RHODES
Austin, TX

HATE FOR LOVE

I'm writing in response to Chris Shepherd's letter "Love For Love" in the January 1989 issue of *The Wrestler*. Shepherd's as insane as Brother Love! Brother Love does not belong in wrestling. He belongs in some mental institution!

As far as The Honky Tonk Man goes, Chris, that man's voice sounds

like someone stepped on a cat! He uses singing as an excuse for carrying his guitar when he really only uses it to hurt people (the guitar, not the singing, that is). He and Brother Love should be run out of the WWF.

Now, addressing Demolition, the tag team Shepherd loves. Have you forgotten, Chris, how Demolition won the belts? It was at WrestleMania IV. Rick Martel of Strike Force had Smash in a Boston crab when Mr. Fuji distracted the referee. Then, Ax hammered Martel and put Smash on top for the pin. They would never have the belts without Mr. Fuji.

Stop kidding yourself, Chris. If The Honky Tonk Man and Demolition are so good, why do they cheat so much? And thank God you'll never find something like Brother Love in the NWA!

JACOB AKEL
Jacksonville, FL

HOORAY FOR DAMIEN

I have never written to a wrestling magazine, but I felt I had to after watching Andre the Giant attack Jake "The Snake" Roberts. I was extremely pleased to watch how Jake stood up to the Giant. Roberts even got Damien out of the sack and wrapped him around Andre's neck. Thousands of fans cheered. I was one of them.

I think the whole incident would have been a lot better if Roberts had also wrapped Damien's tail around Bobby Heenan's neck. That would have really given the fans a thrill for their money. It might have also taught "The Weasel" a lesson.

My advice to Jake Roberts is to have plenty of imitation snakes on hand. Now that we know that Andre is so deathly afraid of snakes, Jake can start by throwing plastic ones at
(Continued on page 46)

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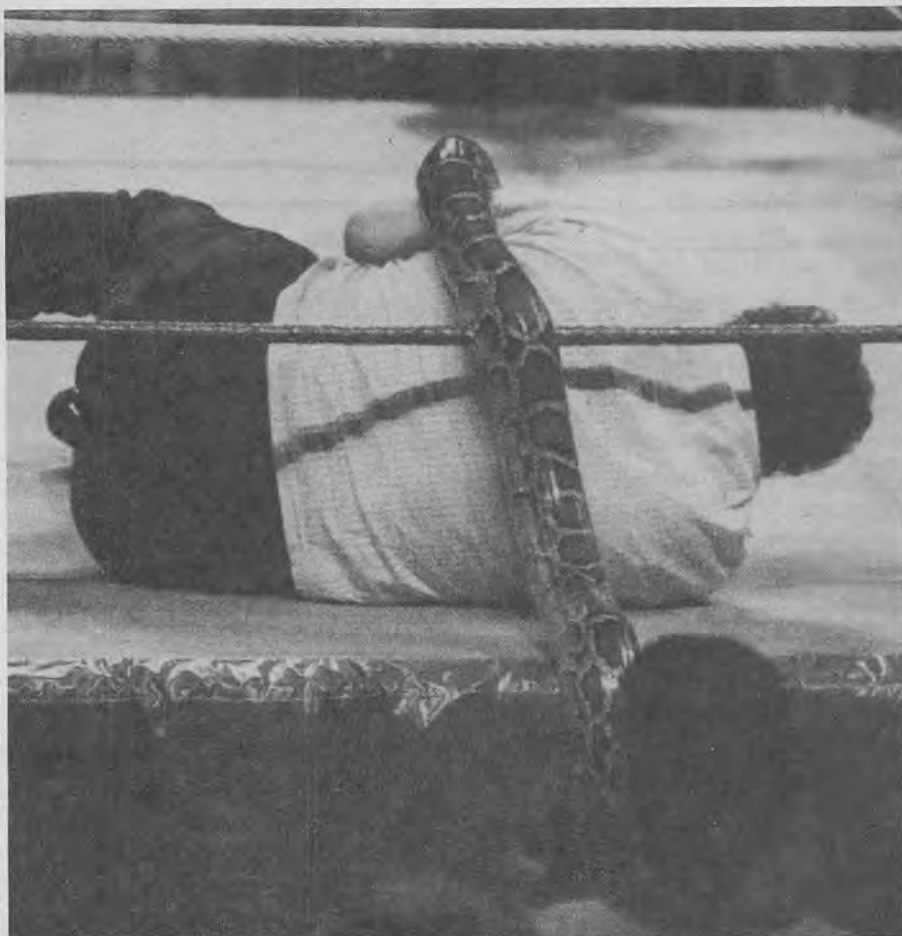
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Andre the Giant is felled by Jake Roberts' snake, Damien. Reader Inie Cotter approves of the way Roberts uses his snake to strike fear into the heart of the Giant.

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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 44)

the Giant. Then, when the time is right, he can bring Damien out. This plan will surely keep Andre and Heenan on the run, where they belong.

INIE COTTER
Lamar, MO

A REAL CHAMPION

In your January 1989 issue, Bob Smith's "Blindsided" column bemoaned the fact that nobody pays attention to the light heavyweight wrestlers. Well, let me tell Mr. Smith something: I pay *plenty* of attention to



Jerry Lawler and Curt Hennig battle for the AWA World title. Reader Scott Tymchyn points out that Hennig's new nickname, "Mr. Perfect," is inappropriate.

MR. PERFECT?

I am writing to say that WWF newcomer Curt Hennig isn't as perfect as he's billed. Curt said on TV that he was perfect ever since he was a baby. This, however, is just not true. Curt Hennig is not Mr. Perfect, by any stretch of the imagination.

Most fans of the WWF may not remember, but on May 9, 1988, Curt Hennig lost his AWA World title to Jerry Lawler in front of a huge crowd. If Hennig wants to go on calling himself Mr. Perfect, that's fine. If he's going to do that, though, he'd better realize that the truly perfect person admits to his failings. Hennig, however, can't be Mr. Perfect. He brags too much and has nothing with which to back it up.

SCOTT TYMCHYN
Guilanderland, NY

the great light wrestlers! Why? Because, like Smith, I realize that they're the most exciting, that's why.

Here's an example. Last week in Dallas, I witnessed a World Class card. On this card, Eric Embry—the very definition of what a light heavyweight wrestler should be—reclaimed his World Class light heavyweight title from Jeff Jarrett. I want Bob Smith to know that I loved every minute of this match. These two guys certainly showed that a main event pitting two 275-pound behemoths is not nearly as exciting as watching the high-flying, quick-moving light heavyweights! So stop all your beefing, Smith, there's *plenty* of great light heavyweight action down here in Texas. And with Embry holding the belt, you can be sure there'll be plenty of matches. He doesn't run away from his opponents like the heavyweight champions do!

KEN ROSENBERG
Denton, TX

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MAY 1987

July 1985/COLOR PINUP: Sgt. Slaughter. **Hogan vs. Piper**, Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

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October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams. **Rick Steamboat**, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from page 8)

he was rushed to a nearby hospital. At press time, it was feared that Dusty might lose all sight in his eye—an ironic turn of events, considering that Animal nearly had his left eye taken out during an attack by **The Warlord** and **The Barbarian** 11 months earlier.

Speaking of Warlord and Barbarian, the wrestling world was shocked by the actions of **Mr. Fuji** during the Survivor Series on Thanksgiving in Richfield, Ohio. The devious manager surprised everyone by causing his own man, **Smash** of **Demolition**, to be counted out against **The Powers of Pain**. **Ax** and Fuji then got into a skirmish at ringside, which ended when Ax bodyslammed Fuji outside the ring.

After Demolition left, Warlord and Barbarian helped Fuji to his feet and brought him to their corner. After they defeated **The Conquistadors** to win the match, Fuji announced that he was their new manager, and immediately demanded a title match against his former proteges! **Baron Von Raschke**, the previous manager of the Powers, apparently has been fired by the massive team.

Wendi Richter saw the realization of a long-standing dream when she defeated **Madusa Miceli** for the AWA World women's championship on November 26 at The Met Center in Bloomington, Minnesota. It is the first major women's championship for Richter since she lost the WWF World women's title to **Fabulous Moolah** on November 25, 1985, at New York's Madison Square Garden.

Another AWA champion, TV titleholder **Ronnie Garvin**, has been one of the busiest men in the sport in recent weeks. He captured the WWC Universal title in a tournament final over **Carlos Colon** on Thanksgiving in Carolina, Puerto Rico. Garvin once again tricked



Ronnie Garvin clamps down on Carlos Colon with an abdominal stretch. Garvin captured the WWC Universal title from Colon in Puerto Rico.

his opponent by feigning an injured leg. When the referee stopped Colon from mounting an offense, Garvin jumped Colon and beat him unmercifully, later pinning him. Now Garvin is defending both the AWA TV and Universal titles—and plans to make his WWF debut shortly!

"I think this proves that I'm still one of the greatest competitors ever," Garvin said after defeating Colon. "Who else has traveled the world and won as many titles as I have? After everything I've accomplished, winning the WWF World title should be no trouble at all."

In other WWC news, **El Prophet** has defeated **Invader III** for the WWC junior heavyweight title, and **Brad** and **Bart Batten** downed **Ron** and **Chicky Starr** for the WWC tag team title . . . **Jimmy Garvin** has left the NWA and will be competing in the World Class, AWA, and CWA areas.

Jamie Dundee, the 17-year-old son of veteran CWA favorite **Bill Dundee**, had his neck broken by huge newcomer **Sid Vicious** during a television taping on November 22. Jamie had come to his father's rescue after **Robert Fuller** and **Jimmy Golden** attacked Bill during an interview. Vicious ran in and

locked Jamie in a Japanese cobra hold, then swung the youngster around until he lost consciousness.

"This is the worst thing that has ever happened to me in wrestling," said a distraught Bill Dundee after the attack. "If it takes the last breath in my body, I'll retire Fuller, Vicious and the rest of **The Stud Stable**. They're gonna feel the same pain that my son felt."

WWF veterans **Don Muraco** and **The British Bulldogs** were scheduled to make their debuts in the Stampede area in early December . . . **Misty Blue Simmes** went undefeated in a three-week tour of Ger-



Don Muraco, who has spent recent years wrestling in the WWF, is scheduled to begin competition in the Stampede area.

many . . . **Beauty and the Beast**, also known as **Mark Goleen** and **Terry Garvin**, are now making waves in the CWA. This is one of the strangest tag teams we've ever seen—they insist on putting a pink mat over the regular mat every time they wrestle!

Lex Luger pinned NWA World champion **Ric Flair** in two straight tag team matches! Luger teamed with **Bam Bam Bigelow** against Flair and **Barry Windham** on November 17 in Norfolk, Virginia. The next night, Luger teamed with **Sting** to down Flair and **Road Warrior Animal** in Washington, D.C. Is the World title the next step for the "Total Package"?

And that's what's happening. See you at the matches! □

HERCULES

(Continued from page 40)

"In fact," ex-manager Pringle said, "I'm convinced that he's going after DiBiase not just because DiBiase tried to buy him or for any grudge he might have had with him after losing the Mid-South tag belts, but because the fans have told him that this is what they want him to do! That's why he joined The Megapowers team, too! Now, the fans—and Hulk Hogan—tell him what to do!"

Hogan and Randy Savage are the most dominating personalities in the WWF today. By joining The Megapowers for the Survivor Series, Hercules may continue being loved by the fans, but he will also continue being a pawn.

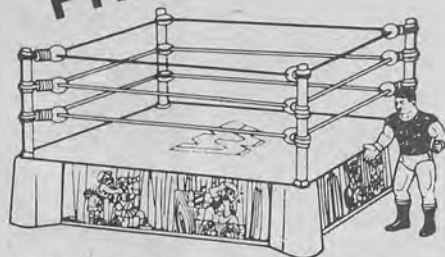
In Megapowers interviews, Hogan speaks for the group. When Hogan refers to Hercules as his "newest Hulkamaniac," he is merely rephrasing—under the guise of friendship—Heenan's speeches. Whether Hercules is on the side of good or not, being under someone's control has restricted his personal growth and the success that can accompany it. Need proof? Just ask Andre the Giant.

"Hercules may have broken away from Heenan and DiBiase," concluded Dr. Sidney M. Basil, a noted psychologist who frequently analyzes top wrestlers for our family of publications, "but he never broke away from his psychological need to be enslaved. The fact that he's always been dominated is not merely a coincidence, but reveals a complex neurosis. The fans, Hogan, and Savage are all his new taskmasters."

If Dr. Basil's prognosis is correct, Hercules will continue to shoulder the yoke of servitude. In the end, Hercules is right when he says he's "no man's slave."

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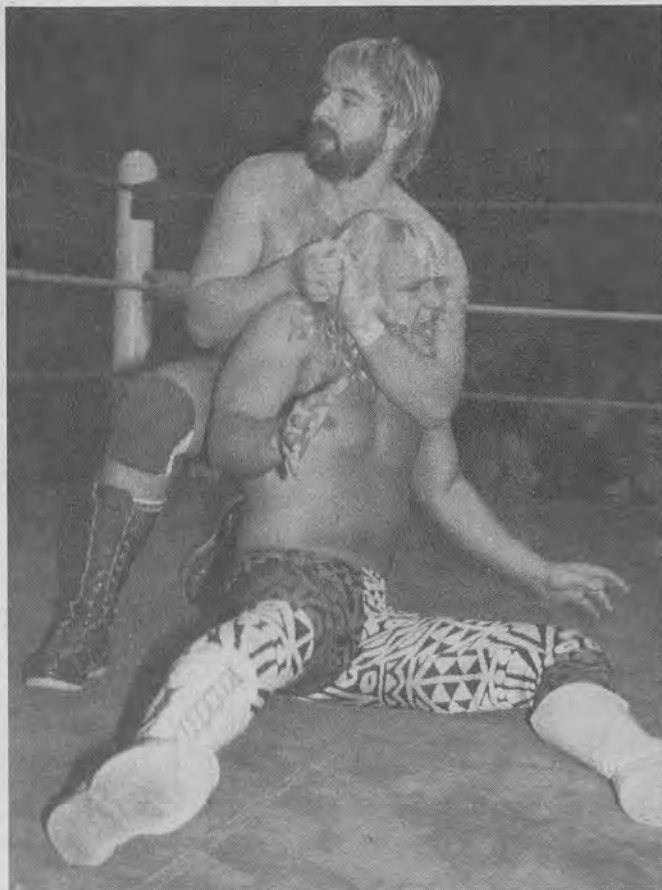
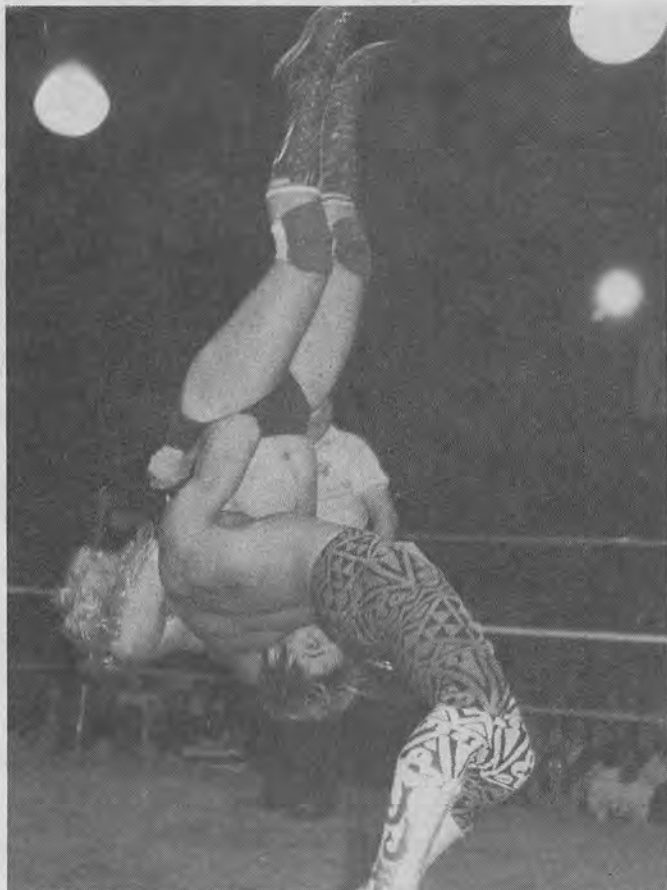
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TW3

JEFF JARRETT

(Continued from page 31)



Jarrett displays his formidable scientific attack with a stunningly swift snap-suplex on Embry (above left). Embry answers the move with a chinlock (above right). There was a time when the Embry-Jarrett rivalry was a friendly one, but those days are long past. Facing Embry so many times has made Jarrett a fiercer, stronger, and more determined wrestler.

Certainly not 6'5", 255-pound Robert Fuller. Before his matches with Embry, Jarrett was engaged in a brutal feud with Fuller, a man who broke his arm with a baseball bat during a sneak-attack in June 1987. Jarrett was forced to wear a cast for weeks. It was that hiatus from the ring that prompted him to change his ways.

"I *always* knew I had a lot of talent, but guys like Fuller tended to treat me lightly because I'm only a little bit over 200 pounds," Jarrett recalls. "A lot of 'em thought I got into the business just because my dad, Jerry Jarrett, is a CWA official. I vowed never to let *anybody* push me around ever again."

When Jarrett returned to action, most CWA observers noticed a decidedly different edge to his

ring work. His maneuvers were crisper, and his motives were more clearly defined. No longer content to be just another scientific wrestler, Jarrett was a man on a mission—and his first goal was revenge from Fuller.

In September, that revenge was very sweet, indeed. Fuller had been wrestling with what he called a "medical problem," and suddenly began wearing an oversized right boot. During a TV match, however, Jarrett tore the boot from Fuller's leg and took it back to the dressing room. When Fuller and Jarrett locked up again at Memphis' Mid-South Coliseum a week later, Jarrett was wearing the steel-loaded footgear, which helped him gain a major victory.

"That got Fuller off my back pretty quick," laughed Jarrett. "He

Embry backs Jarrett into the corner and peppers him with repeated closed-fist punches to the head.

knew right then that I was nobody to be messing around with. Right after that, though, I got another guy pretty mad at me."

Jarrett had angered Kerry Von Erich during the match in which Jerry Lawler had defeated him for the World Class title October 23 in Memphis. Jarrett was the keeper of the keys for this steel cage bout. Late in the match, Von Erich was trying to leave the cage, but Jarrett swung the door *inward*, hitting Von Erich in the head. Moments later, Lawler escaped and was named the new champion.

"What I did was a mistake," recalled Jarrett. "There was no malice intended on my part, but I can understand why Kerry was so upset. I'm trying to be more aggressive, but I *still* know right from wrong. Luckily, Kerry now knows what I'm all about."

Jarrett got his chance to prove his sincerity to Von Erich late in November. The Samoan Swat Team had ganged up on Von Erich—who by then had regained the World Class title—during what was billed as a singles match between Von Erich and Samu. Jarrett ran down the aisle and ran both Samoans from the ring. Impressed by his courage, Von Erich immediately offered his hand of friendship to Jarrett.

"Jeff is pretty amazing," said Von Erich afterward. "I've never seen anybody with so much guts. I'll tell you, this is a man with firm convictions. He knows what he wants, and he goes out and gets it. That's the sign of a winner."

And a champion. On Thanksgiving Day in Jackson, Tennessee, Jarrett recaptured the World Class light heavyweight title from Embury. He was not about to be denied again.

"Like Kerry said, I know what I want," said Jarrett during a joyous celebration in the locker room afterward. "Nobody's ever gonna consider me an easy mark again!"

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WIN, LOSE, OR DRAW

(Continued from page 10)

say no' was more than a slogan to Tommy, it was the way he lived his life."

Though he knew he was dying, Tommy talked about getting better. Piper was especially moved. "I wish just once in my life I could muster up the guts you've got," he told Tommy. It's hard to imagine "Rowdy" Roddy Piper, a man famous for never backing down from an opponent, looking to a child for inspiration. But it happened; Tommy made it happen.

Marshall sent Tommy some wrestling magazines and T-shirts. Both men promised Tommy they would visit him when they were in the Washington area. "Roddy and I fell in love with the kid," Marshall recalled. "He was brave, braver than most wrestlers I

know. We were sitting there in tears while we were talking with him. You could just feel this young man's courage coming over the phone. I've never experienced anything like it."

After the conversation, Tommy's parents said he was happier than he had been in months. A big football fan as well, he even asked to be taken to a Washington Redskins game. He wanted to see some of his favorite players, like Charles Mann, who had visited him in the hospital. Former Redskin Joe Theismann was also a friend of Tommy's.

Even more encouraging, Tommy's doctors said the tumor in his body had decreased in size by 14 percent. There was no medical explanation, other than Tommy's



Tommy Kelleher speaks with Piper and Marshall from his home. A painful bout with cancer did not lessen Tommy's love for the sport of wrestling.

tremendous will to live.

Tommy survived this particular cancer longer than anyone before him. But, sadly, the inevitable had only been delayed. On September 29, 1988, six days after speaking with Piper and Marshall, Tommy Kelleher died.

He was 11 years old.

Just days before he died, Tommy sent Marshall a letter he had dictated to his dad. "I wore the Gold's Gym T-shirt you sent me when I went for my radiation treatment," Tommy wrote. "It made me feel like there are people who care about me."

He wrote that he wanted to visit Roddy and Lee at the gym and work out with some of his favorite wrestlers. "I want to strengthen my legs," he asserted. "I will run again some day."

Tommy recalled how he found the strength to speak with Piper and Marshall as the tumor pressed against his voice box. "I felt okay that day," he wrote. "I think God helps me when I really need it."

"Remember, I received this letter after Tommy died," Marshall said. "He was truly amazing. He wanted to do so many things. He couldn't wait to go to a live wrestling match and see all the men he admired so much in action."

"Roddy and I have been affected very deeply by our relationship with Tommy," Marshall continued. "He helped put things in perspective for us, and that's important in this business. Roddy is going to tell Tommy's story when he appears on the David Letterman show."

"Having known Tommy gives me a little extra strength," Marshall added. "I don't think I'll ever forget him. He was a very special boy."

He was indeed. So the next time someone tells you that all wrestlers care about is money and titles, tell them the story of Tommy Kelleher. □

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SPRING 1987



FALL 1988

SPRING 1984/Color pinups: Superstar-Bravo, Adrian Street, Hansen-Race, Valiant-Kabuki. **Stories include:** Warriors, Kerry Von Erich, Bockwinkel, Santana, Hansen.

SUMMER 1984/Color pinups: Patera-Gagne, Windham-Bart, Bundy-Garvin, Koloff-Mosca. **Stories include:** Junkyard Dog, Flair-Race, Adams-Garvin, Snuka, Idol, Orndorff.

FALL 1984/Color pinups: Haynes-Nagasaki, Kabuki-Kamala, Steamboat-Slater, Blanchard-Colon. **Stories include:** Hogan, David Von Erich, Flair-Brody, Blanchard.

WINTER 1984/Color pinups: Michael Hayes, Flair-McDaniel, Gilbert-Rich, Haynes-Funk. **Stories include:** Kerry Von Erich, Martel-Bockwinkel, Piper, Flair-Steamboat.

SPRING 1985/Color pinups: Animal-Funk, Poffo-Gilbert, Nikita-Fernandez, Garvin-McDaniel. **Stories include:** Warriors, Hogan, Albano, Rhodes, Sullivan.

SUMMER 1985/Color pinups: Kerry-Flair, Hawk-Lawler, Funk-Slater, Nikita-Rhodes. **Stories include:** Valentine, Windham & Rotundo, Warriors, Flair-Race, Nikita.

FALL 1985/Color pinups: Adams-Kevin Von Erich, Zbyszko-Backlund, Lawler-Brody, Blanchard-T.A. **Stories include:** Von Erichs, Warriors, Hogan-Volkoff, Freebirds.

WINTER 1985/Color pinups: Flair-Kevin Von Erich, Hayes-Hawk, Hogan-Fujinami, DiBiase-Roberts. **Stories include:** Orndorff, Warriors, Brody, Shultz, Duggan.

SPRING 1986/Color pinups: Windham-Sullivan, Andre-Bundy, Taylor-Landell, Hernandez-Kerry. **Stories include:** R&R Express, Warriors, Hogan, Santana, Rude, Williams.

SUMMER 1986/Color pinups: Luger-Barr, Garvin-Flair, Nord-Hawk, Missy-Sunshine. **Stories include:** Warriors-Russians, Savage-Hogan, Kevin Von Erich, Bulldogs.

FALL 1986/Color pinups: Kirchner-Volkoff, Nikita-Hawk, Morton-Flair, Nord-Hennig. **Stories include:** R&R Express, Luger, Savage, Bulldogs, Hansen, Rude, Williams.

WINTER 1986/Color pinups: Rude-Von Erich, Khru-shev-Mantel, Hogan-Adonis, Bockwinkel-DeBeers. **Stories include:** Supercards, Hogan, Horsemen, Snuka, Von Erich.

SPRING 1987/Color pinups: Steamboat-Zulu, Roberts-Hillbilly, Morton-Anderson, DiBiase-Hayes. **Stories include:** Bigelow, Flair, Hogan, Luger, Race, Windham, Hyatt.

SUMMER 1987/Color pinups: Roberts-Kamala, Von Erich-Perez, Morton-Koloff, Snuka-Zukhov. **Stories include:** Windham, Elizabeth, Superpowers, Albano, Von Erich.

FALL 1987/Color pinups: Animal-Lane, Bigelow-Inoki, Sullivan-Hall, Ware-Honky Tonk. **Stories include:** Midnights, Flair, Steamboat-Savage, Luger, Piper, Hogan-Andre.

WINTER 1987/Color pinups: Tama-Santana, Perez-Steamboat, Rhodes-Flair, Gordy-Gilbert. **Stories include:** Luger-Nikita, Express, Hart, Hogan, Hyatt, Lawler.

SPRING 1988/Color pinups: Jason-Hart, Konga-Sting, OMC-Santana, Von Erich-Adias. **Stories include:** Warriors, Hogan-Andre, DiBiase, Honky Tonk, T.A., War Games.

SUMMER 1988/Color pinups: Von Erich-Roberts, Sting-Rotundo, Misty-Dallas, Reed-Muraco. **Stories include:** Luger, Hogan, Cornette, Hennig, Bigelow, Hyatt, Rude.

FALL 1988/Color pinups: Santana-Smash, Warlord-Hawk, Adams-Taylor, Hennig-Lawler. **Stories include:** Luger, Hogan, DiBiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting, Savage.

WINTER 1988/Color pinups: Kerry, Hayes, OMC, Sting, Luger, Idol, Ultimate, Brody. **Stories include:** Sting, Hyatt, Dusty, Roberts, Ultimate, Powers of Pain.

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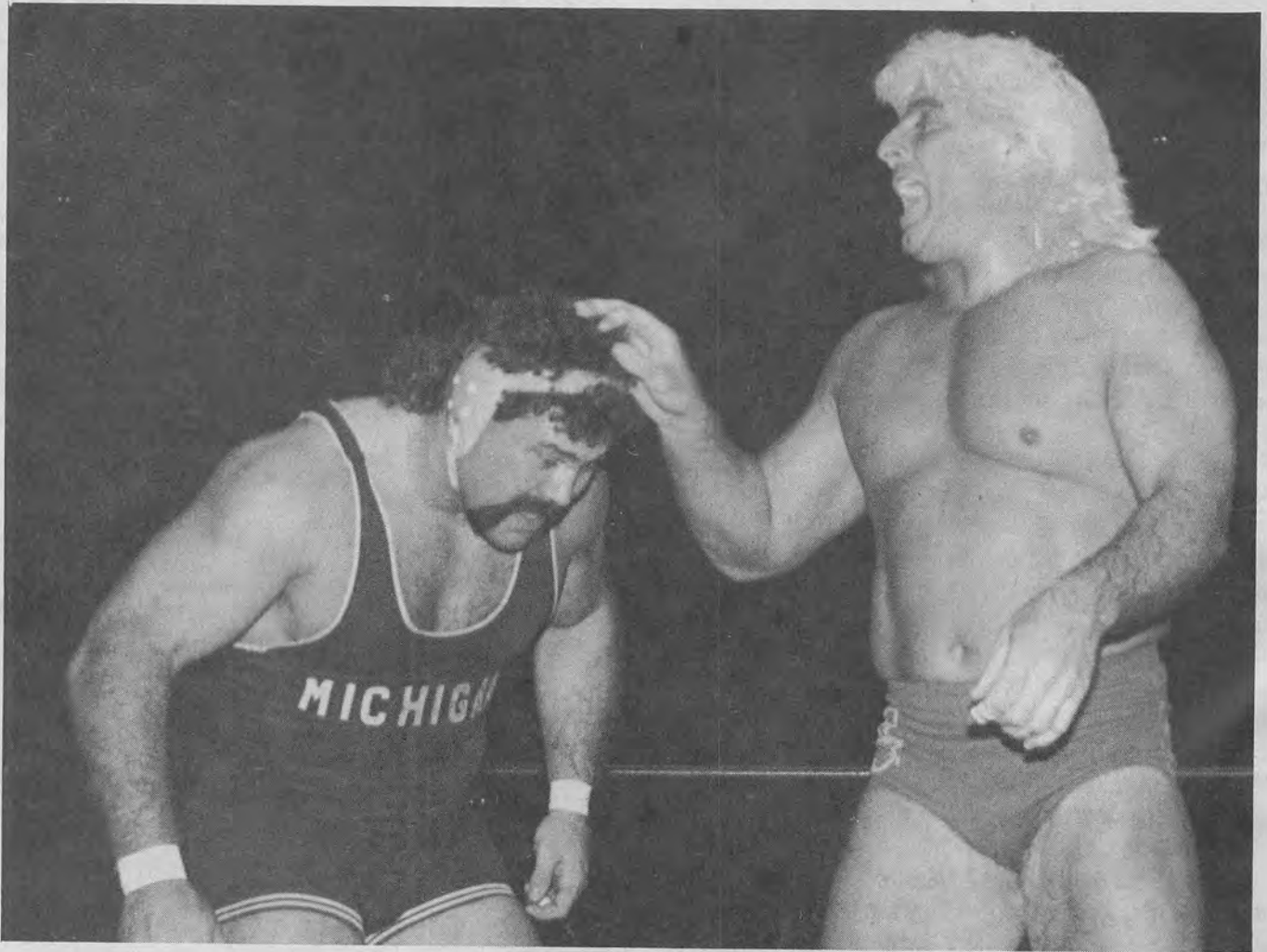
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RIC FLAIR

(Continued from page 33)



Flair is in full command of Rick Steiner (above), a contender the champion characterizes as "young and tough." Sting is the unfortunate recipient of a Flair kneedrop (left). The champion feels that he wrestles the toughest competition anywhere in the sport and, as a result, is justified in doing whatever is necessary in order to keep the title.



belt has, and the only image I have. I have set the standard of how a world title should be defended.

Let's put it this way, and I don't think this is something anybody can argue with me about: Last year, all these people were celebrating when Ronnie Garvin, this so-called "working man," beat me for the belt. But then what did he do? He sat on the belt for two months. He didn't defend the title; he got permission from the NWA to spend over six weeks preparing for the Starrcade '87 match against me. Of course, by that time, he was like a rusty nail and I just pounded him into the ground.

What I'm trying to say is that you people don't realize how lucky you are

to have me as World champion. I'm gonna do something I usually don't do, and that's talk about some of the other champions. Randy Savage, now there's a man who's been beaten by every top man in this game, and now he's champion of a federation packed with has-beens.

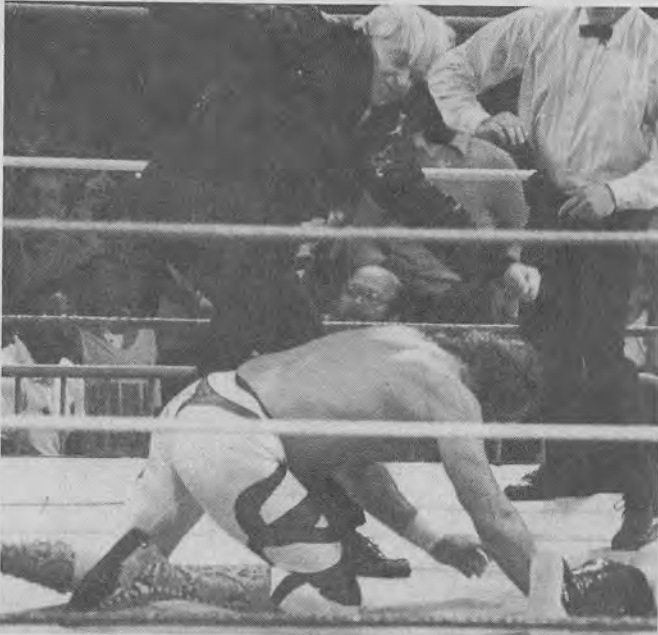
How about Jerry Lawler? You say he wrestles champs from other federations? Well, tell me who you're talking about. Kerry Von Erich? I beat him in his prime, and he's well past it now. Tatsumi Fujinami? I conquered Japan long ago, and *that's* why I don't go back there anymore. The top wrestlers, the top stars, veterans and rookies, are in the NWA. There aren't any tougher top challengers than Sting and Lex

But for now, you've got me all wrong. ☐

55

SCARED STIFF!

(Continued from page 35)



Interfering on behalf of Rick Rude, Bobby Heenan kicks Jake Roberts (above left). After Heenan pulls Rude out of the ring, Andre the Giant continues punishing Jake (above right).



Andre is terrified as Roberts wraps his snake around the Giant's body (above left). Fearing the worst, Heenan calls for medical help (above right). Now that he has found Andre's biggest weakness, Jake can psychologically dominate the Giant at will.

friends.

But Andre is not alone in his fears. He is like millions of other people who suffer from squamataphobia—an irrational fear of snakes. Andre simply had the misfortune of having one thrown at his body, which was already frozen in fear.

"I tried very hard to watch that incident, because I knew it was important and I might be asked to write about it," Associate Editor Dave Rosenbaum said. "But I must admit, when Jake threw the snake

on Andre's body, I just switched channels. Thank goodness for remote control!

"I can understand exactly what Andre was going through," Rosenbaum continued, "because I have the same fear. I think my worst fear, however, is that somebody is going to throw a snake at me, which is exactly what happened to Andre. I've had that dream at least 10 times in my life. Each time I woke up screaming, and each time it affected me for the rest of the day. I realize it's a totally irrational

fear, but aren't all phobias irrational? It doesn't make sense, but it's intense."

Certainly, Andre knows what Rosenbaum is talking about. He has absolutely refused to speak with the press about his fears of snakes. "I don't talk about that word. I do not want to hear that word," he said. Even manager Bobby Heenan is on patrol for Andre, making sure that Jake's snake never comes near his man again.

At the most recent tapings for *Saturday Night's Main Event* and

Wrestling Challenge in Sacramento, California, Andre wrestled Randy Savage for the WWF World title. During the match, Roberts came to the ring with Damien in a bag, but was ordered back to the dressing room. Jake, however, managed to hide the snake under the ring.

Heenan searched for the bag as the match continued and finally found it. Then Roberts ran out once again, grabbed the bag, and chased Heenan into the ring. A terrified Andre stood in one corner, shaking like a leaf in a hurricane because he knew what the bag contained.

As it turned out, Jake never removed Damien from the bag. Instead, he simply used him to continue his intimidation tactics. He also managed to cause the disqualification of both Andre and Savage, thereby robbing Andre of a chance to regain the World title.

"The thing I find most disturbing about this is that the fear of snakes is a legitimate phobia," Rosenbaum said. "If a person was scared of heights, you wouldn't take him to the top of a tall building. There's such a thing as humanity, even in professional wrestling. Roberts thinks he's a big, tough man, just because he can scare Andre with his snake. But it's just not fair to take advantage of a person's phobia."

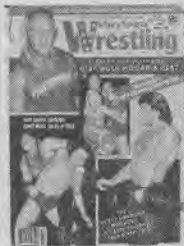
Roberts has always used man's fear of snakes to his advantage. Two years ago, Jake was involved in a heated feud with Rick Steamboat. The feud reached its hottest point when Roberts knocked out Steamboat, then stuck Damien's head into the "Dragon's" mouth. Steamboat's wife Bonnie, sitting at ringside, looked on in horror; Steamboat nearly fainted when he learned of the incident.

It is an incident Andre hopes is never repeated. But if it is, Jake won't have to knock out his opponent; Damien will do it for him.

Believe it. Andre the Giant is scared stiff. ☐

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WINTER 1985

WINTER 1984/Color pinup: Billy Jack Haynes. **Stories include:** Ventura, Adams, Martel, Flair, Reed.

FALL 1985/Color pinup: Steve Keirn & Stan Lane. **Stories include:** Albano & Hogan, DiBiase, Warriors, Garvin.

WINTER 1985/Color pinup: Barry Windham. **Stories include:** Hogan, Zbyszko, Kerry, R&R Express, Steamboat, Thesz.

SPRING 1986/Color pinup: The Road Warriors. **Stories include:** Martel, Savage vs. Poffo, Hogan, Santana, Steamboat.

SUMMER 1986/Color pinup: Rock 'n' Roll Express & Magnum T.A. **Stories include:** Flair, Warriors, JYD, Magnum, Williams.

FALL 1986/Color pinup: Randy Savage. **Stories include:** R&R Express, Missy, Roberts, Windham, Luger, Rhodes.

WINTER 1986/Color pinup: Hulk Hogan. **Stories include:** Flair, Freebirds, Hogan, Andre, Watts, Haynes, Fantastics.



SUMMER 1986

SPRING 1987/Color pinup: The Four Horsemen. **Stories include:** Ventura, T.A., Bulldogs, Adias, Savage-Steamboat.

SUMMER 1987/Color pinup: Road Warriors workout. **Stories include:** Hogan-Andre, Rockers, Koloff, Warriors, Hall-Luger.

FALL 1987/Color pinup: Dark Journey. **Stories include:** Albano, Hogan, T.A., Lane, Hyatt, Hennig, Luger.

WINTER 1987/Color pinup: Jesse Ventura. **Stories include:** Kerry, Rhodes, Hogan, Flair, Honky Tonk, DiBiase.

SPRING 1988/Color pinup: Elizabeth. **Stories include:** Hennig, Koloff, Savage, Strike Force, Warriors, Andre-Hogan.

SUMMER 1988/Color pinup: Missy Hyatt. **Stories include:** Rock 'n' Roll Express, Hogan, Sting, Luger, Owen Hart, Animal.

FALL 1988/Color pinup: Madusa Miceli. **Stories include:** Savage, Hyatt, Von Erich, Triple Dome, Demolition, Steamboat, Heenan, Lawler.

WINTER 1988/Color pinup: Randy Savage. **Stories include:** DiBiase, Flair, Duggan, Sting, Piper, Luger, Brody.

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INTRODUCING

(Continued from page 20)

scrapes in his tough west side neighborhood. By 1983 he was working sporadically as a night-club bouncer.

"I beat people up for a living—and for fun, too," recalled Jack. "I figured that if I became a wrestler, I could make some *real* good money doing it."

Jack talked his way into helping set up rings at independent wrestling cards around the East Coast. During that time he met Domenic DeNucci, a former WWF tag team champion. Impressed with his size and eagerness to learn, the Italian star agreed to train Jack at a gym near his home in Pittsburgh.

Jack's first pro match was on June 24, 1983, against young Kurt Kaufman in Clarksburg, West Virginia; he demolished his opponent in less than six minutes. Unfortunately, that first victory changed Jack—for the worse.

"I got really cocky," said Jack, slightly embarrassed. "After just one win, I got too big for my britches. I left DeNucci and began a career of busting heads all over the country. I just loved breaking the rules."

Foley traveled the country, brutalizing opponents in several independent federations. After downing a young opponent with his version of the Russian leg sweep during a card in Ohio this past July, Jack received an unexpected visitor in the locker room.

"I couldn't believe it," recalled Jack. "It was Fuller! He said he was impressed by the way I keep beating the guy after I pinned him. He signed me to a contract on the spot. He said he needed 'protection' for his other boys."

After Jack joined The Stud Stable in August, he began teaming with Gary Young on a regular basis. On October 23 in Memphis, they won a tournament to become



Jack struggles with Fuller, leader of The Stud Stable, during a barbed-wire match. Jack was once a member of the Stable, but couldn't agree with Fuller's methods.

CWA tag team champions. After five long years, Jack had *finally* made it big—but his glory would turn out to be short-lived.

"Fuller and Jimmy Golden said they deserved to be the number-one contenders for the AWA tag team title," said Jack. "Naturally, as CWA champs, Gary, myself, and even [manager] Downtown Bruno thought we should get a match against Pat Tanaka and Paul Diamond. That's all I can remember—Fuller, Golden, and their valet Sylvia attacked all three of us at that point."

This shocking incident prompted fans to cheer for Jack for the first time in his career, but his new popularity didn't help his luck much. Sylvia interfered to help

Fuller and Golden capture the CWA tag title from Jack and Golden November 7 in Memphis. When Jack and Young dropped a loser-leave-town match to Fuller and Golden on November 20 in Memphis, Jack packed his bags and set his sights on the World Class area.

"You know, I kind of like hearing cheers instead of catcalls," said Foley. "Now I've got to make a name for myself in Dallas. After everything I've gone through with Fuller and his henchmen, I'm ready for the best competition I can find. Bring 'em on, I say—and if Fuller is brave enough to show his face in Texas, I'll be more than happy to settle the score with him, too." □

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May 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Bockwinkel.
June 1980/Stories include: Putski, Andre, Hernandez, Keirn.
August 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Wrestling II, Baker, Koloff.
September 1980/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, Ladd, Iron Sheik.
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January 1981/Stories include: Race, Snuka, Morales, Slater.
April 1981/Stories include: Albano, Sammartino Jr., Race, McGraw.
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June 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Hansen, Piper, Gagne.
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January 1982/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Race, Humberdink.
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August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.
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November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.
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March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.
April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.
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October 1988/Stories include: Megapowers vs. Megabucks, Horsemen, Lawler.
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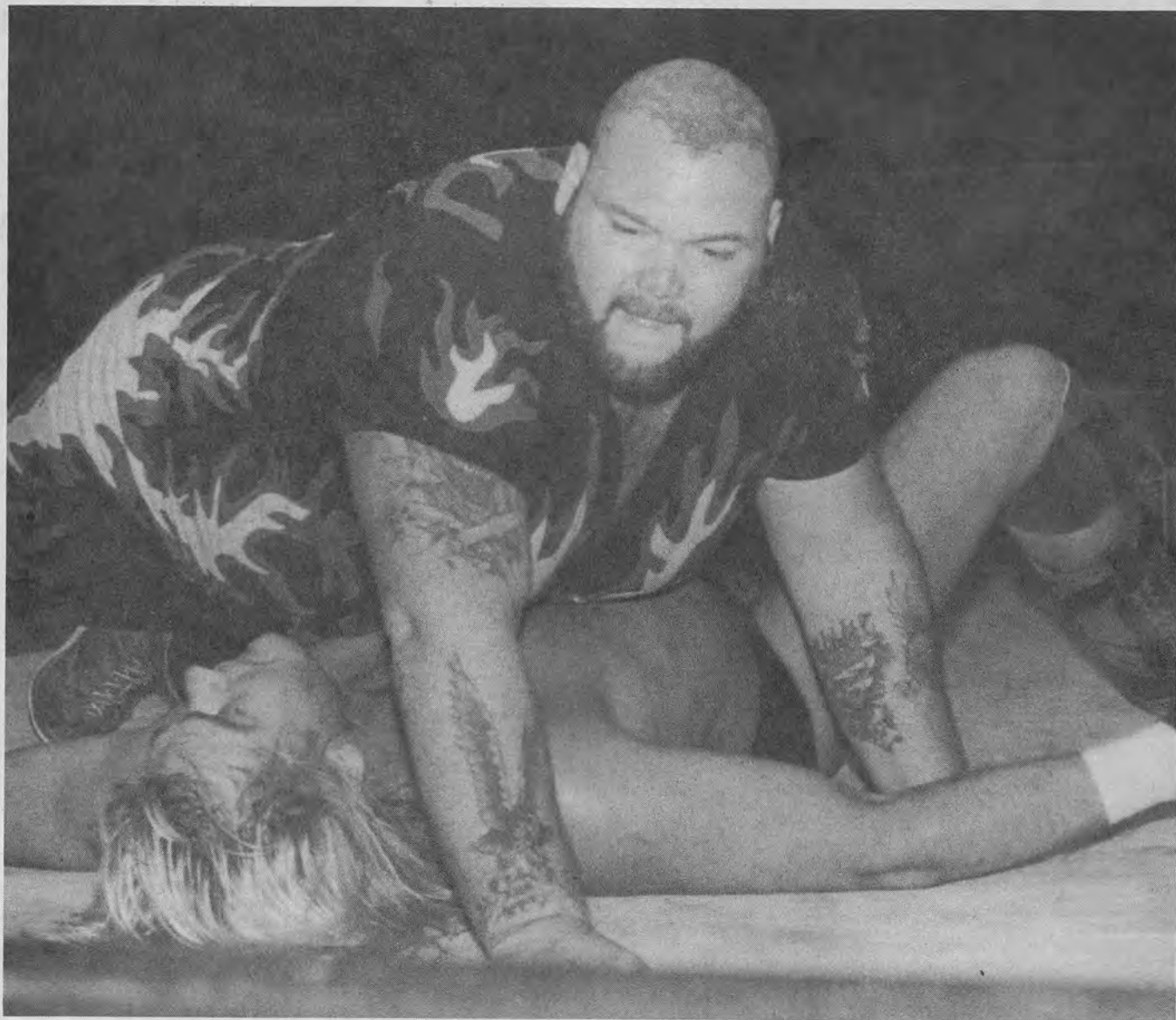
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BIGELOW VS. WINDHAM

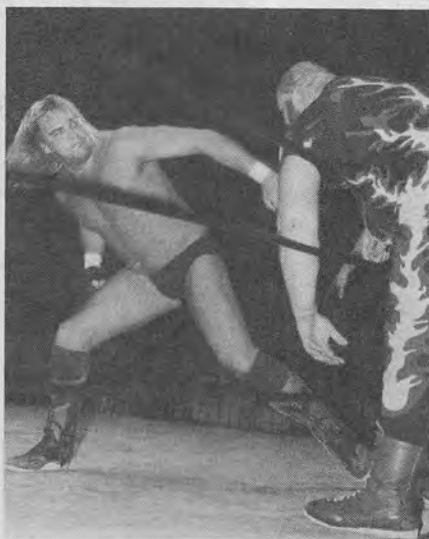
(Continued from page 37)



used to lose a match. The only times he *would* lose is when he'd break the rules so badly, the referee would disqualify him. Forget about him getting pinned. He'd take on three or four guys at once and win. Remember, he was Mid-Southern champion several times as a rookie."

He was also first runner-up in the 1986 *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Rookie of the Year voting, finishing fewer than 3,500 votes behind Lex Luger and 3,000 votes *ahead* of Sting in one of the finest rookie crops ever. During 1986, Bigelow also wrestled in the World Class area, where he captured the TV title. While dominating the CWA

Bigelow covers Windham for the pin (above). Hanging on the ropes, Bam Bam leaves himself open for a Windham right hand (below).



and World Class, he gained a worldwide reputation as one of the most dangerous men in the sport.

"He's *still* one of the most dangerous men in the sport," manager Sir Oliver Humperdink insisted. "It's just that he's refined his attack and taken out all the unnecessary energy he used to expend. Being tough doesn't mean you *have* to break the rules."

But the world has been waiting more than two years for Bigelow to realize his potential. He wasted most of 1987, returning to the Mid-South area where he wrestled with Lawler before taking off for Japan to avoid a suspension. In Japan, Bigelow quickly earned the reputa-

tion he had established for himself in the U.S.: tough, mean, and talented. In late 1987, Bigelow signed with the WWF and hired Humberdink. Teaming with Hulk Hogan, he continued to carve his reputation as a fan favorite.

But he spent all of 1987 without a title. He has spent 1988 without a title.

Can Bigelow withstand another failure? If he falls short in his quest for Windham's U.S. title, will we see Bigelow's other side resurface?

"I gotta do *what's* best for me *when* it's best for me," Bigelow said. "I'm not worried about *not* winning Windham's title, 'cause it ain't gonna happen. That guy's pretty tough, but he ain't as tough as me, and he's never gonna be able to pin me down. As for returning to my roots, as you wise guys put it, I don't see where I ever got away from my roots."

But even his opponents admit that Bigelow isn't as mean as they expected.

"Let's face it, when you see a guy like Bigelow, with that big fire-ball tattoo on his head and that gigantic body, you figure you're in for real trouble," Windham said. "I'll admit he's tough, but he sure as hell isn't as tough as I expected. I'd seen tapes of him from a few years back, and I would've bet that he'd have killed a man by now. If you ask me, there's a lot there that's not being used."

By now, Bigelow must realize where he was in 1986, and how far he has—and hasn't—come. He has not dominated wrestling, as was predicted. He has not won a major title, which is perhaps the biggest shock of all. Meanwhile, the biggest criticism of him from the start, that he can't stay in one federation for any length of time, continues to haunt him.

More important, he is haunted by a claim to greatness that has never been realized.

If he doesn't defeat Windham, he'll know exactly what to do. ☐

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CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

(Continued from page 16)



Ric Flair whips longtime archrival Dusty Rhodes across the ring. Flair pinned Rhodes in a bout in Columbus, Ohio, but did it with his feet on the ropes.

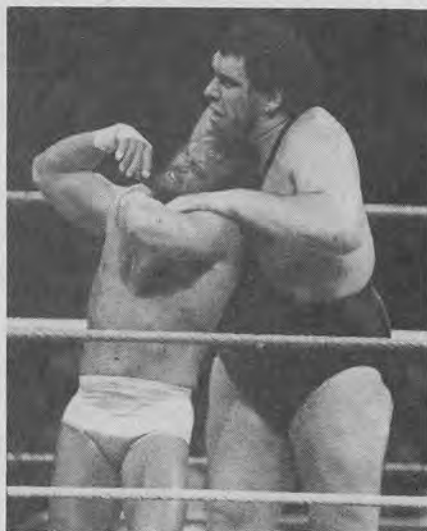
though Flair's feet were on the ropes.

In other bouts: Sting beat Barry Windham by disqualification ... Lex Luger & Bam Bam Bigelow defeated The Midnight Express ... Mike Rotundo drew with Nikita Koloff ... Steve Williams pinned Eddie Gilbert.

Lacrosse, WI (Correspondent—Erick Hofacker): This match pit Andre the Giant against WWF World champion Randy Savage. As in many of their previous matches, Andre controlled most of the match because of his sheer size. Andre repeatedly choked and smothered Savage.

Finally, Savage had the chance to make his move. He used his flying axhandle against the Giant.

Then, the "Macho Man" threw Andre out of the ring. In the ensuing outside-the-ring brawl, Savage ran Andre into the ringpost near



Andre the Giant chokes WWF World champion Randy "Macho Man" Savage.

his manager, Elizabeth.

Savage then attempted to get back to the ring before the count-out, but he was unable to do so. After the bell that signified the double-countout, Andre attempted to grab Elizabeth, but Savage intervened and saved his manager from potential physical harm.

In other bouts: Demolition beat The British Bulldogs ... Greg Valentine defeated Tim Horner ... B. Brian Blair pinned Iron Mike Sharpe ... Curt Hennig pinned Sam Houston ... The Rockers beat The Conquistadors ... Koko B. Ware beat King Haku by countout.

Hilo, HI (Correspondent—Dorian Cheney): In a wild tag team bout, Stan Hansen and Terry Gordy jumped Terry Funk and Dory Funk Jr. before the bell. This sent Terry over the top and stunned Dory. Once the referee regained control, the match officially started with Gordy throwing Dory out of the ring.

This led to all four participants beginning a wild chair-throwing chase around the arena. At the 17-count, the wrestlers returned to the ring. Late in the match, Hansen threw Dory into the turnbuckles with such force that the ring ropes broke and popped out of the four corners of the ring!

After several minutes of uncontrolled mayhem, the match was stopped and declared a no-contest.

In other bouts: Tommy Rich wrestled Danny Spivey to a count-out ... Scotty "The Body" beat Brett Sawyer ... The Terminator & Johnny Ace beat Steve Keirn & Mike Graham ... The Great Kabuki pinned "Moose" Morowski ... The Nasty Boys lost to Michael Hayes & Jerry Blackwell ... Dick Slater destroyed Mark Starr. □

YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 18)

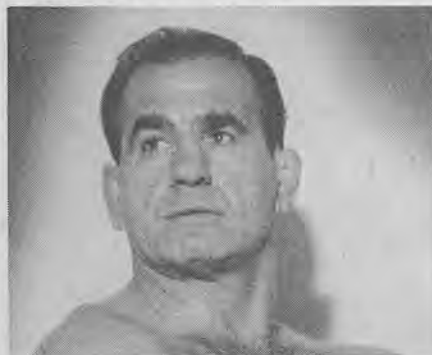


Col. DeBeers (backing Sgt. Slaughter into a corner) claims service in the South African army made him tougher than Slaughter.

No other army trains like ours. I was privileged enough to be a member of my country's Tactical Urban Assault Group, which combated the enemies of the state. There, I learned the street-brawling skills that help me be a superior wrestler today. While Slaughter was climbing ropes and running obstacle courses, I was battling insurgents on the streets of Cape Town. It made me stronger and it made me tougher."

Q: "My question is for Bruno Sammartino: Who do you think was the greatest NWA World champion?"—Henry Tyminski, Toronto, Ontario

A: "Looking over the long list of NWA champions, one is amazed by how many great names are on



Lou Thesz is considered by Bruno Sammartino to be one of the great NWA champions.

it," Sammartino replied. "The NWA traditionally has been a haven where the sport's best scientific stars have been able to flourish and prosper. Ric Flair is a great champion, but the NWA is eight decades of great champions. My top three, in no specific order, would be Jack Brisco, Dory Funk Jr., and, of course, Lou Thesz, the six-time champion. What can I say about Thesz? He was simply the greatest scientific star of all time. He was the guy everybody of that era tried to imitate. No one could. He always seemed to have the belt!"

Q: "I want to ask The Road Warriors what the hell they thought they were doing when they beat up Sting! What did he ever do to them?"—Jessica Carroll, Winsted, CT

A: Animal answered first: "Sting? It's not him so much as what he represents. For too long, The Legion of Doom has allowed itself to actually be interested in pleasing the fans. That's why we were allies with Sting and Dusty Rhodes. We were never their friends! We just shared common enemies." Hawk continued: "That's right. It was always, 'please, Road Warriors, battle The Four Horsemen for us,' and, 'please, Road Warriors, run The Powers of Pain out of the NWA for us,' and, 'please, Road Warriors, beat up The Varsity Club for us.' Well let me tell you something: We got sick and tired of fighting all those wimps' battles for them! We have our own agenda of destruction, and now we're going to have the time to set it into motion. First hit: Sting and Lex Luger. Next, we'll obliterate The Midnight Express and prove that our title victory was no accident. Before we're done, Rhodes himself will lay in a deep puddle of his own tired blood!" ☐

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Wrestler^{THE}



Ric Flair

TOP 10

- 1 RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
WWF World champion
- 2 RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
NWA World champion
- 3 JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
AWA World champion
- 4 LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
No. 2 contender: NWA title
- 5 KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
World Class heavyweight champion
- 6 BARRY WINDHAM**
263, Sweetwater, TX
U.S. heavyweight champion
- 7 ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France
No. 2 contender: WWF title
- 8 HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
No. 3 contender: WWF title
- 9 THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
280, Queens, NY
WWF Intercontinental champion
- 10 STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
No. 3 contender: NWA title

TAG TEAMS

- 1 THE ROAD WARRIORS**
Combined weight: 567 pounds
NWA World tag team champions
- 2 DEMOLITION**
Combined weight: 585 pounds
WWF World tag team champions
- 3 PAT TANAKA & PAUL DIAMOND**
Combined weight: 456 pounds
AWA World tag team champions
- 4 THE FANTASTICS**
Combined weight: 462 pounds
No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag team title
- 5 STAN LANE & BOBBY EATON**
Combined weight: 453 pounds
No. 1 contenders: NWA tag team title
- 6 WARLORD & BARBARIAN**
Combined weight: 655 pounds
No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 7 THE SAMOAN SWAT TEAM**
Combined weight: 510 pounds
World Class tag team champions
- 8 JACQUES & RAYMOND ROUGEAU**
Combined weight: 490 pounds
No. 2 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 9 DENNIS CONDREY & RANDY ROSE**
Combined weight: 461 pounds
No. 2 contenders: NWA tag team title
- 10 TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON**
Combined weight: 484 pounds
No. 3 contenders: WWF tag team title

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR

243, Minneapolis, MN

- 1—BARRY WINDHAM**
263, Sweetwater, TX
- 2—LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
- 3—RICK STEINER**
248, Detroit, MI
- 4—STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
- 5—BAM BAM BIGELOW**
368, Mt. Laurel, NJ
- 6—DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 7—MIKE ROTUNDO**
245, Syracuse, NY
- 8—STEVE WILLIAMS**
265, Norman, OK
- 9—NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 10—EDDIE GILBERT**
222, Lexington, TN

WWF

World Champion:
RANDY SAVAGE

245, Sarasota, FL

- 1—THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
280, Queens, NY
- 2—ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France
- 3—HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 4—BIG BOSSMAN**
348, Cobb County, GA
- 5—BAD NEWS BROWN**
280, New York, NY
- 6—KING HAKU**
274, Tonga
- 7—THE HONKY TONK MAN**
255, Memphis, TN
- 8—HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 9—TED DiBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
- 10—HERCULES**
255, Tampa, FL

AWA

World Champion:
JERRY LAWLER

234, Memphis, TN

- 1—RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 2—KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
- 3—WAHOO McDANIEL**
280, Midland, TX
- 4—GREG GAGNE**
220, Robbinsdale, MN
- 5—COL. DeBEERS**
248, Cape Town, South Africa
- 6—MANNY FERNANDEZ**
245, El Paso, TX
- 7—SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Parris Island, SC
- 8—JEFF JARRETT**
200, Hendersonville, TN
- 9—MANDO GUERRERO**
225, Mexico City, Mexico
- 10—ROBERT GIBSON**
225, Pensacola, FL

WORLD CLASS

World Class Champion:
KERRY VON ERICH

260, Denton, TX

- 1—ICEMAN PARSONS**
245, St. Louis, MO
- 2—JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
- 3—JEFF JARRETT**
200, Hendersonville, TN
- 4—ERIC EMBRY**
225, Lexington, KY
- 5—SUPER BLACK NINJA**
245, Tokyo, Japan
- 6—KEVIN VON ERICH**
235, Denton, TX
- 7—KAMALA**
360, Uganda
- 8—STEVE COX**
240, Portsmouth, VA
- 9—MICHAEL HAYES**
255, Marietta, GA
- 10—THE BEAST**
375, Botswana

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings.

MOST POPULAR

- 1 HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
Last month: No. 2 Most Popular
- 2 RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
- 3 STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
Last month: No. 3 Most Popular
- 4 HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular
- 5 LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
Last month: No. 5 Most Popular
- 6 THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
280, Queens, NY
Last month: No. 6 Most Popular
- 7 RICK STEINER**
248, Detroit, MI
Last month: unrated
- 8 DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
Last month: No. 7 Most Popular
- 9 KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
Last month: No. 9 Most Popular
- 10 JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
Last month: No. 10 Most Popular

MOST HATED

- 1 BIG BOSSMAN**
348, Cobb County, GA
Last month: No. 3 Most Hated
- 2 ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated
- 3 RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated
- 4 BARRY WINDHAM**
263, Sweetwater, TX
Last month: No. 6 Most Hated
- 5 RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
Last month: No. 6 Most Hated
- 6 TED DIBIASE**
247, Omaha, NE
Last month: No. 5 Most Hated
- 7 THE HONKY TONK MAN**
255, Memphis, TN
Last month: No. 7 Most Hated
- 8 STEVE WILLIAMS**
265, Norman, OK
Last month: unrated
- 9 KEVIN SULLIVAN**
252, Boston, MA
Last month: No. 8 Most Hated
- 10 DINO BRAVO**
246, Montreal, Quebec
Last month: unrated

STAMPEDE

North American Champion:
MAKHAN SINGH

380, Saginaw, MI

- 1-JOHNNY SMITH**
235, Manchester, England
- 2-LANCE IDOL**
225, Hollywood, CA
- 3-BRUCE HART**
211, Calgary, Alberta
- 4-CHRIS BENOIT**
218, Edmonton, Alberta
- 5-STEVE DISALVO**
298, Boston, MA
- 6-VULKAN SINGH**
300, Billings, MT
- 7-GAMA SINGH**
220, Karachi, Pakistan
- 8-JERRY MORROW**
235, Martinique
- 9-STEVE BLACKMAN**
250, Pittsburgh, PA
- 10-BEEF WELLINGTON**
225, Lloydminster, Alberta

CWA

CWA Champion:
BRIAN LEE

242, St. Petersburg, FL

- 1-BILL DUNDEE**
214, Melbourne, AUS
- 2-SID VICIOUS**
290, parts unknown
- 3-JEFF JARRETT**
200, Hendersonville, TN
- 4-ROBERT FULLER**
255, Dyresburg, TN
- 5-JIMMY GOLDEN**
235, Montgomery, AL
- 6-MIKE MILLER**
265, New Orleans, LA
- 7-WENDELL COOLEY**
220, Milton, FL
- 8-BRICKHOUSE BROWN**
225, Winter Haven, FL
- 9-BUDDY LANDELL**
236, Los Angeles, CA
- 10-SCOTT STEINER**
235, Detroit, MI

CONTINENTAL

Continental Champion:
TOM PRICHARD

220, Houston, TX

- 1-DUTCH MANTEL**
224, Oil Trough, MX
- 2-BLACK BART**
261, Pampa, TX
- 3-WILLIE B. HERT**
238, El Paso, TX
- 4-TONY ANTHONY**
235, Bucksnorth, TN
- 5-BRAD ARMSTRONG**
226, Marietta, GA
- 6-KEN WAYNE**
208, Memphis, TN
- 7-THE BULLET**
234, parts unknown
- 8-DOUG FURNAS**
265, Commerce, OK
- 9-DAN DAVIS**
238, Nashville, TN
- 10-JOHNNY RICH**
235, Hendersonville, TN

ACW

Atlantic Coast Champion:
TITLE VACANT

To be filled in upcoming tourney

- 1-JIM GARVIN**
235, Tampa, FL
- 2-BUDDY LANDELL**
236, Los Angeles, CA
- 3-ROBERT GIBSON**
225, Pensacola, FL
- 4-MITCH SNOW**
220, Mooresville, NC
- 5-RICK MORTON**
228, Memphis, TN
- 6-RICK GIBSON**
238, Pensacola, FL
- 7-NELSON ROYAL**
222, Mooresville, NC
- 8-SCOTT ARMSTRONG**
212, Marietta, GA
- 9-TODD CHAMPION**
264, Los Angeles, CA
- 10-DOUG SOMERS**
245, Minneapolis, MN

For period ended December 1, 1988

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of those issues—in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only—and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a number-one rating, nine for a number-two ranking, and so on down to one point for a number-10 rating. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, allowing a maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| 1-RIC FLAIR | 94 points |
| 2-RANDY SAVAGE | 89 points |
| 3-LEX LUGER | 63 points |
| 4-JERRY LAWLER | 57 points |
| 5-STING | 49 points |

TAG TEAMS

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1-DEMOLITION | 84 points |
| 2-THE ROAD WARRIORS | 79 points |
| 3-BOBBY EATON & STAN LANE | 72 points |
| 4-TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON | 67 points |
| 5-THE FANTASTICS | 53 points |

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 135 wrestlers in 12 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

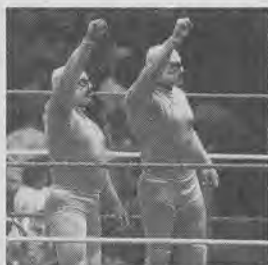
The fight for survival. The Survivor Series, though only in its second year, has already become a Thanksgiving tradition. For three hours, 50 of the best wrestlers in the WWF go head to head in nearly non-stop combat with no titles on the line. It's a test of endurance, strength, cunning, and wrestling ability. Columnist Matt Brock calls it "the WWF's All-Star Game."

But the last remaining man in the ring for each match wasn't necessarily the wrestler that turned in the most impressive performance. Avoiding too much ring activity is a good way to ensure that you'll be around at the end; wrestling all-out near the beginning of the match is a good way to ensure that you'll spend a good part of the evening lounging in the locker room.

With this in mind, we've compiled a list of 10 wrestlers that turned in the most impressive performances in the Survivor Series. The list, of course, is totally subjective, and is based on a poll of the editors of *The Wrestler*. An analysis follows.

SURVIVOR SERIES

- 1—THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR
- 2—THE CONQUISTADORS
- 3—JAKE ROBERTS
- 4—THE POWERS OF PAIN
- 5—CURT HENNIG
- 6—RANDY SAVAGE
- 7—AKEEM
- 8—HULK HOGAN
- 9—RON BASS
- 10—ANDRE THE GIANT



The Conquistadors

The Ultimate Warrior overcame a two-on-one disadvantage to win the first event for his team. He used an axhandle to pin Ron Bass and, 25 seconds later, crushed Greg Valentine with a double-axhandle. Earlier in the match, the Warrior swung the momentum to his team's favor with a stunning clothesline of Bass and a bodyslam of The Honky Tonk Man.

The Conquistadors may have been the biggest surprise of the entire evening. They went the distance—42 minutes and 18 seconds—in the tag team event before Mr. Fuji led to their downfall and a victory by The Powers of Pain. The Conquistadors managed to kick out of 15 near-pins and actually had Warlord and Barbarian on the run when Fuji interfered.

Jake "The Snake" Roberts was truly a survivor. Left at a four-on-one disadvantage for the final nine minutes of the third match, Roberts valiantly fought off Rick Rude, Dino

Bravo, Curt Hennig, and Andre the Giant, but couldn't fight off the inevitable. In fact, Roberts was in for a good portion of the opening 21 minutes and took a serious pounding. But he showed determination and courage. It was an amazing effort.

The Powers of Pain came out on the long end of a duel with Demolition early in their match, changed the face of WWF wrestling when they befriended Mr. Fuji, and won the longest—and most exciting—match of the card ... Curt Hennig used the Survivor Series to establish himself in the WWF for the first time. He stayed in the ring for five minutes early in the main event, dominated Roberts before getting dominated by Jake later on, and scored the winning pin.

Randy Savage had to take care of himself while Hulk Hogan was handcuffed to the ring ropes in the main event. Hogan scored the winning pin, but Savage made it possible. Another survivor ... Akeem pinned Hillbilly Jim early in the match and stood his ground while three men tried to knock him to the canvas. Then he set up Big Bossman's pin of Koko B. Ware and played a large role in the Elizabeth-Hogan-Slick-Bossman incident.

Hogan saved Elizabeth and then endured incredible punishment when he was handcuffed to the ropes. By the time he unlocked himself, Hogan was so angry, King Haku didn't have a prayer ... Ron Bass lasted far longer than anybody expected in the first match. He pinned Sam Houston, weakened Brutus Beefcake, and nearly survived an onslaught by Ultimate Warrior ... Andre the Giant was dominant. He sacrificed himself by choking Roberts for more than five seconds, earning a disqualification; but in doing so, he weakened Roberts. Before leaving the ring, Andre headbutted Roberts to the canvas, setting him up for the final pin.

A new federation. The Atlantic Coast Wrestling group, this month's entry in the revolving ratings category, is running cards in the Carolinas, West Virginia, and parts of Tennessee. They plan to wrestle mostly in the areas covered by Jim Crockett Promotions when it was a regional operation. Atlantic Coast currently has no heavyweight singles or tag team champions, but plans to hold tournaments for both. Nelson Royal is the junior heavyweight champion.

That's all for now. We'd like to hear what you thought about our Survivor Series ratings, and we welcome any suggestions you might have about our ratings and "Ratings Analysis." The address for mail is: "Ratings Analysis" c/o *The Wrestler*; Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY 11571. □

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- Winter 1986 *Wrestling Superstars*—"Superstar Dream Match: Hulk Hogan vs. Ric Flair"
- Spring 1987 *Wrestling Superstars*—featuring a full-color "Action Gallery" centerfold of Hogan career highlights
- August 1987 *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*—"Giant Killer! Hogan Topples Andre At WrestleMania III!"
- May 1988 *Sports Review Wrestling*—"Special Section: The Andre-Hogan Feud—A Pictorial History!"
- July 1988 *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*—"I've Been In A Dreamworld And Andre Is My Worst Nightmare!" An exclusive "Press Conference" with Hulk Hogan

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